



THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

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Senators clash on Whitewater report

Mrs Clinton accused of lies and cover-up

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

SENATE Republicans yesterday released a massive report on the Whitewater affair that amounted to the most damning indictment of a First Lady in American history.



Clinton: "complicity in fraudulent land deal"

On issue after issue, the Senate Whitewater committee's Republican majority accused Hillary Clinton of wrongdoing, directly challenged her truthfulness, and said aides had perjured themselves to protect her.

They accused her of complicity in a thoroughly fraudulent Arkansas land deal in the mid-1980s: they insisted that she had ordered a top-level cover-up after Vincent Foster's suicide in 1993, and they named her as the person most likely to have hidden records of her legal work for the corrupt bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair.

But the White House and Democrats on the committee rejected the charges of a "kangaroo court" and accused the Republicans of using lying innuendo in a despicable election-year witch-hunt.

In a dissenting report, the Democrats said that the 14-month investigation had found no misconduct or abuse of power by the President or his wife. The Republicans, it said, had hammered evidence into the precast mould of their conclusions. "Every act is portrayed in its most sinister light, every failure of recollection is treated as though the standard for human experience is total recall."

But Alfonso D'Amato, the committee chairman, mocked Administration witnesses for

their endless memory lapses, changed stories and repudiation of their own notes and diaries. At a televised press conference, he hurled charges of perjury and obstruction at the White House, saying it had "misused its power, circumvented the limits of its authority and attempted to manipulate the truth."

The Republicans' 770-page report on a \$1.4 million inquiry that summoned 250 witnesses will now be forwarded to Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, who will decide whether to bring criminal charges against Mrs Clinton or any Administration officials.

The report itself split the Whitewater scandal into what it called the Arkansas, Washington and Foster phases.

The "Arkansas phase" dealt with the Clintons' conduct in the mid-1980s when James McDougal, owner of Little Rock's Madison Guaranty bank, was pumping funds into

the Whitewater development company they jointly owned.

The report said that Governor Clinton, in an "apparent, if not actual, improper conflict of interests", gave Mr McDougal's failing bank regulatory advantages until it collapsed at a cost to the taxpayer of \$60 million.

It also accused Mrs Clinton, in her legal work for Madison, of "direct and substantial involvement" in a particularly fraudulent property transaction known as Castle Grande.

The Republicans contended that after Madison collapsed, the Clintons and their allies launched a massive cover-up that began in Arkansas, lasted throughout the 1992 presidential campaign, and continued in Washington in order "to hinder, impede and control investigations into Madison Guaranty and the Whitewater real estate investment".

They accused Mrs Clinton of destroying, perhaps illegally, some records of her work for Madison, and two of her partners - Vincent Foster and Webster Hubbell - of improperly removing others.

The report's Washington phase said that after the Clintons reached the White House, senior Administration officials improperly obtained inside information on supposedly independent federal investigations into Madison and passed that information to the White House which then sought to suppress them.

The "Foster phase" continued on page 2, col 1



Alan Shearer celebrates the penalty that opened the scoring and kept up his record of a goal in every match

4-1 triumph sees England through

BY JOHN GOODBODY AND ADRIAN LEE

ENGLAND swept into the quarter-finals of the European football championship last night with a consummate 4-1 victory over Holland at Wembley and now meet Spain on Saturday for a place in the last four.

Despite all their troubles of recent weeks, England revived memories of their 1966 World Cup triumph by finishing top of their preliminary group and

also scoring the most goals in any match so far.

However, the single Dutch goal prevented Scotland qualifying for the next round. Scotland could only beat Switzerland 1-0 at Villa Park with a goal from Ally McCoist and were eliminated on the number of goals scored. Holland now meet France, who won their group, at Arnhem on Saturday and the remaining quarter-finalists will be decided tonight.

At Wembley, Alan Shearer

and Teddy Sheringham each scored twice as England outplayed the Dutch for long spells of the easiest and most pleasing victory in Terry Venables' two-and-a-half-year reign as England coach. Patrick Kluivert replied for Holland in the 78th minute.

The one jarring note for England was that Paul Ince was booked for the second time in the competition and will miss the quarter-final.

Many of the 15,000 Dutch supporters, dressed in orange

shirts, shorts, boiler suits and policeman's helmets made of orange plastic, had spent the day happily drinking in London's West End.

There was also none of the trouble between rival fans that had scarred the last meeting between the two countries, when England lost 2-0 in a World Cup qualifying match in 1993 and 1,100 English supporters were deported.

Rampant England, page 52
Scotland out, page 52

Blair to shift policy on workers' rights

BY JILL SHERMAN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is heading for a further confrontation with trade unions after signalling that a Labour government would not increase workers' rights.

Addressing German businessmen in Bonn last night, the Labour leader heralded a radical shift in the party's employment policy by saying that unions and workers would not be guaranteed extra protection under Labour.

"We need to rethink the whole of our philosophy in relation to the labour market," Mr Blair told the German employers' organisation, BDI. He said that he would support moves to boost competitiveness rather than increase regulation - open markets and education and welfare reforms - if Europe was not to be overtaken by Asia.

Mr Blair used the rest of his speech to give an assurance that Labour would initiate a "fresh start" in relations with the EU, in which Britain would be "walking tall in Europe, not skulking on the sidelines".

A policy paper to be published later this week is expected to drop a commitment made by John Smith to introduce equal rights for full-time and part-time workers from the first day of employment. The Labour leadership is still negotiating with trade union leaders.

The paper, entitled *Building prosperity - flexibility, efficiency and fairness at work*, will cover Labour's revised position on trade union rights and recognition while ensuring "minimum

Continued on page 2, col 7

Blair courted, page 14
Leading article, page 21

Arndale resident slept through bomb blast

BY KATE ALDERSON

AN elderly and partly deaf man emerged from the wreckage of the bombed Arndale Centre in Manchester yesterday after apparently sleeping through the terrorist explosion that devastated the city centre.

The man, who lives in a block of flats within the complex, had flu and had taken to his bed on Saturday morning. He spent three days in his sickbed, sleeping and occasionally walking to have something to eat while 80,000 people around him were evacuated. He had no idea that he had survived a 1.5-tonne IRA bomb that detonated almost on his doorstep.

At 4pm yesterday, the police believe, the man finally looked out of his still intact window and telephoned the housing association that manages the devastated property. He said: "I think there has been an explosion."

The housing association told the police and officers telephoned the man and told him to stay where he was until they arrived. Officers reached him within a few minutes and escorted him from the flat.

Social services are to re-house the man, who is in his 70s. He told the police that he had eaten well and asked the officers for a newspaper. He told the policeman who gave him a paper: "I am sorry to cause you any bother."

Terrorist pictures, page 5
Simon Jenkins, page 20



Millennium cash

The Millennium Exhibition to celebrate 2000 will go ahead in Greenwich. The Government ended months of speculation that the event might have to be scrapped because of insufficient private sector cash backing. Pages 2, 21

Field sports backers infiltrate RSPCA to promote hunting

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of field sports enthusiasts have infiltrated the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in an attempt to halt the charity's 20-year campaign against fox and deer hunting.

Borrowing the tactics of its foes, the 88,000-member British Field Sports Society said yesterday that 3,000 supporters had joined Britain's oldest and most influential animal welfare pressure group in the past four months.

The RSPCA said it was alarmed by a dramatic increase in membership from the hunting lobby after years of stagnant recruitment. It said it was legally powerless under the terms of its charitable status to exclude the new entrants despite its anti-blood sports policy.

A similar strategy has been used successfully in recent years by anti-hunting crusaders to infiltrate the National Trust and embarrass its leadership by winning support for resolutions calling for hunting to be banned on Trust land.

The RSPCA is vulnerable to such tactics because it has only 29,000 fee-paying members with voting rights; most of its annual income of £38 million comes from legacies and donations from more than 300,000 non-voting supporters.

The new entrants will have a first chance to flex their muscles at the RSPCA's annual general meeting at Church House in London on Saturday, when a motion reaffirming the society's opposition to hunting will be debated. However, only a few joined in time to acquire voting rights this year.

The long-term aim is to influence RSPCA policy by electing to the charity's 25-strong executive council people who are sympathetic to the role of field sports in conserving wildlife and the countryside.

The RSPCA has ordered branches to assess the infiltration. It concedes that at least 1,000 people have joined, but insists there will be no change in its anti-hunting stance.

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Former chef cooks up £70m profit in two years

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

MICHAEL CANNON, formerly a Berni Inn chef, was yesterday boasting £70 million he made by selling the Magic Pub Company to Greene King, the East Anglian brewers, for nearly £200 million.

It was the second time in three years that Mr Cannon, 55, had achieved business success. In 1993 he netted £26 million by selling *Devenish*, his first pub company. After that he spent a year on "gardening leave" before deciding two years ago that he wanted a fresh challenge. He started his new company after buying about 300 run-down Chef and Brewer pubs.

He invested around £12 million in the new company. Other directors took a 10 per cent holding and the City put up the rest of the money. The company set out to build up a series of highly individual chains. These included such now familiar names as the Rat and Parrot, Hungry Horse and Pickled Newt.

Phillip Snook, managing director of the company, said: "When we bought the pubs they were in a fair state of decay. We wanted to create something slightly over the top, often painting them in outlandish colours to give a signal to customers that they had changed."

Mr Cannon had considered floating the chain on the stock market but decided to sell after receiving offers from five potential buyers. The pubs, attractively sited in London and the South East, earned £13 million last year on a turnover of £83 million.

Mr Cannon first entered the pub business in 1975, investing £30,000 for a half share in the Naval Volunteer in Bristol. By 1993 his first company was also worth some £200 million.

The directors of the Magic Pub Company will stay on until control passes to Greene King in September. Mr Snook, who has worked with Mr Cannon in both his pub companies, said: "We haven't worked out exactly what we are going to do yet, but we certainly intend to get back into the leisure business."

Cannon: decided he needed a new challenge

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From left: Claire Callot, from Provence, in a hat strewn with roses, Mrs Israel Kristensen, fresh as a daisy, Patti Wong, from Japan, in a striking ballerina creation and Amanda Fox in petal-covered pyramid

BY GRACE BRADBERRY
STYLE EDITOR

Ascot racegoers let summer go to their heads

FLOWERS were a popular theme at Ascot yesterday, adorning some of the most striking hats in the Royal Enclosure.

Claire Callot, 20, from Provence, who was attending Ascot for the first time, wore a hat covered in roses, which she bought in Paris.

While many racegoers opted for conservative straw hats with wide ribbons, the more extreme millinery was created by lesser known designers.

Amanda Jones, 33, wore an extraordinary cone of ruffled fabric, designed by Mui Lee. They had both been students at the London College of Fashion.

The warm weather encouraged a large attendance, with 45,355 people watching the St James's Palace Stakes, a 9 per cent increase on last year. For the first time armed police patrolled the entrances and

the Royal Enclosure as a result of increased security after the Manchester bomb. One sartorial talking point was provided by a man. When the royal carriages drove through shortly after 2pm it was noticed that the Prince of Wales was wearing a lilac shirt with a white collar. This created instant interest: was it correct? Presumably so, given the colour-

ful crowd in the Royal Enclosure. Andrew Parker Bowles, with his elegant second wife, Rosemary, mingled with the wives of lesser-known pop stars, and many people who would not be known for anything much at all. Rosemary Parker Bowles wore an elegant pale lemon suit but other women made up for her restraint with outfits that fulfilled expectations for over-the-top fashion.

Isabell Kristensen, a Danish designer who is making a name for herself in London, wore one of her own creations, a yellow suit with an enormous daisy hat. Among the best dressed were the Honourable Mrs Waley-Green in an enormous white hat by Philip Treacy and Patti Wong, a Hong Kong socialite, who wore a Thierry Mugler suit and a distinctive ballerina-style hat. Some of the most elegant women wore the simplest outfits. Sandra Howard, accompanying her husband, the Home Secretary, said that her black-and-white suit was "homemade" but she might have been joking. Others in the royal party were more conservative. The Queen wore a lavender, floral print dress. Princess Margaret a pale blue suit and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother wore a turquoise green floral ensemble. Alexandra Legge-Bourke caused a frisson of excitement when she arrived with a young man on her arm. His name badge, however, revealed him to be Harry Legge-Bourke, her younger brother. Miss Legge-Bourke wore a red shift dress and matching hat. The Queen Mother, who will be 96 in August, delighted crowds at Ascot yesterday by refusing to let her advancing years interfere with her lifelong passion for the turf (Alan Hamilton writes). She travelled from the royal box to the paddock in what has become the trademark transport of her later years, a battery-driven golf buggy.

Fashion, page 18
Racing, page 46-47

Couple ambushed on woodland walk by rapist gunman

BY JOANNA BALE

AN ARMED rapist dragged a 16-year-old girl from her boyfriend at gunpoint as they strolled through a Hampshire wood. The boyfriend managed to raise an alarm and the man was spotted by police, but still managed to escape.

Yesterday detectives said they had not ruled out a possible link between the rape and four similar attacks on courting couples in woodland 25 miles away.

In the latest incident, the man armed with a handgun and a knife approached the couple near a lake at Havant Thicket, near Havant, on Monday evening. Despite being threatened, the 28-year-old boyfriend tried to follow the girl and the gunman at a distance through dense undergrowth, but lost sight of them and ran off to telephone police. Officers spotted the attacker, but he ran off as his victim ran towards them.

More than 50 police officers, some equipped with night-vision goggles, spent until the early hours of yesterday searching the four square miles of woods for the attacker. A spotter plane and a helicopter with thermal-imaging equipment were also used in the hunt, without success.

The man was described as dark-haired, 5ft tall, in his 20s and scruffily dressed in a German military-style black and white striped camouflage jacket and jeans.

Police said there were no "positive links" with between the rape and cases at Farley Mount, Winchester, but they were keeping an open mind. In the earlier attacks, a man wearing a camouflaged jacket and armed with a handgun also singled out courting couples in secluded country areas. In an April attack which featured on BBC's Crime-watch programme, the man threatened a couple with a pistol, blindfolded them, tied



Police searched Havant Thicket until early yesterday

them up, then dragged a 16-year-old girl into his car and drove off. He released her after sexually assaulting her in a lay-by. Detective Chief Inspector Neil Kingman of Hampshire police said Monday's victim was "extremely distressed" but it was hoped that the couple would return to the wood to help to establish the exact location of the incident.

He said: "They were approached by this individual carrying a handgun and a knife. The individual told the boyfriend to clear off while he took the girl away to another part of the woods. The boyfriend followed as best he could at a discrete distance, bearing in mind that the assailant had a gun and a knife - that's pretty frightening for anybody. At some stage he lost track of them. He then tried to summon help from a man walking a terrier dog, then went to a telephone box and dialled 999."

"The man was actually seen by officers while they were searching the area. They came across the girl, who ran to the officers. At the same time, the assailant fled into another part of the woods."

Police gave chase, but lost him. Traffic police also mounted static patrols on the A3(M)

and also patrolled Manor Lodge Road and Havant Road, which border the area.

Describing the boyfriend's actions as commendable, Mr Kingman said: "He tried as best he could to keep an eye on his girlfriend, but bearing in mind he had been threatened with a gun and a knife, it is quite understandable that it might have been difficult for him to follow quite closely. He did the next best thing which was to summon the police."

Police officers and social workers were interviewing the girl yesterday afternoon to try to piece together precise details of the attack. Detectives appealed for witnesses, particularly the man with the terrier dog.

Havant Thicket is owned by the Forestry Commission and is popular with ramblers as well as dog walkers. The Staunton Way long-distance footpath runs through it. Kathleen Edmonds, a pensioner who lives near the woods, said: "I have lived here for 41 years and the area has gradually declined as housing estates have sprung up."

"People using the woods get their cars broken into and the local children are always causing fires. And now a girl has been raped. I'm terrified even to open my door these days."

Woman in sex change jailed for blackmail

BY PETER FOSTER

A TRANSEXUAL who tried to extort £5 million from Harrods was jailed for eight years at the Old Bailey yesterday. Lydie Banot, 41, threatened to release mice into the food hall, spread food poisoning in the restaurants and put fleas in the clothes department as the store prepared for the Christmas rush.

Banot, who was born male, pleaded guilty to three charges of conspiring to demand money with menaces. Brian Altman, for the prosecution, told the court that Banot had formed a grudge against the store because, she claimed, she had been scarred by electrolysis treatment to remove facial hair in the beauty salon.

In a letter addressed personally to Mohammed Al Fayed, the Harrods chairman, last November, Banot had demanded that £5 million be placed in a Swiss bank account. The store's security department, led by John Macnamara, a retired detective chief superintendent in the Serious Fraud Squad, called in police who mounted an operation to foil Banot's extortion attempt.

Shani Barnes, for Banot, of Walthamstow, east London, said she had a sex-change operation in 1993 and was suffering from a gender identity disorder, which had caused her massive physical and mental suffering and was not to be confused with transvestism. Banot's demand for £5 million was clearly ridiculous and was a cry for help for acknowledgement of years of pain.

Judge Forrester said Banot had run a "sustained and sophisticated" campaign to blackmail Harrods, which was vulnerable to such attacks, and only a custodial sentence was appropriate. "If it were otherwise like-minded people might be more inclined to follow in your footsteps and any such inclination must be deterred."

Rape-case jury shown secret video

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A JURY watched a videotape yesterday of a 16-year-old girl allegedly being raped by the model agency boss Peter Martin in his office. The nine men and three women on the jury at Manchester Crown Court, where Mr Martin faces 16 new charges, sat impassively as they watched the 24-minute tape, said to have been filmed secretly by Mr Martin.

The girl was heard saying "No" several times as Mr Martin, 56, began to have sex with her on a couch at the Model Team International Agency. Each time she said it, Mr Martin retorted "Why?"

Mr Martin and his co-defendant, Tracey Grainey, 30, his former assistant,

had screens next to them in the dock but did not watch the video. Much of the soundtrack was confused by the sound of a film, *Carry On - Follow That Camel*, playing on the television in Mr Martin's office in Manchester.

Mr Martin, of Sale, pleads not guilty to raping eight young women, six indecent assaults and two charges of taking indecent photographs of girls under 16. Miss Grainey, of Atherton, Greater Manchester, denies four indecent assaults on young women, three of them jointly with Mr Martin.

The alleged rape victim, Miss B, now 29, was allowed to leave court while the film was shown. Earlier Miss B, who had joined the agency at the age of 14 and later

worked there, told how she was first raped by him after being driven to his home shortly after her sixteenth birthday, while she was still at school.

She said that Mr Martin had sex with her six or seven more times over about eight months, but she had not been willing on any occasion. She said she had continued at the model agency because she thought she should act "as if everything was all right".

She left the agency after a dispute with Mr Martin about not taking a message at the reception desk, where she worked after leaving school. She was also concerned, she said, about the attention he was giving her sister, then aged 10 or 11. The trial was adjourned until today.

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Murder victim worked for police

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT



Janet Murgatroyd

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of a woman found floating in a river discovered yesterday that she was one of their own clerks.

Janet Murgatroyd, 20, a clerk at Lancashire police headquarters in Preston, was found in the River Ribble in Preston, naked and beaten about the head and face. Miss Murgatroyd, who lived with her mother, worked at night for the crime reports bureau. She recently completed her first year of part-time study for a law degree at the University

of Central Lancashire and had taken the job to fund her studies.

Police are trying to trace a couple seen arguing early last Sunday in gardens close to the river and the area where Miss Murgatroyd lived in Penwortham, near Preston. A woman dressed like Miss Murgatroyd was later seen in a distressed state on the bridge trying to call a taxi. Twenty minutes later a witness reported seeing a man emerging from bushes leading down to the riverbank.

Detective Superintendent Graham Gooch said Miss Murgatroyd had a broken jaw

and was badly beaten but not sexually assaulted. She had not been in the water very long and was almost certainly dead when she entered the river.

He said: "The fact that this victim worked for the force makes it especially traumatic for her colleagues, but we must deal with it with the same determination as any other murder hunt."

Superintendent Karen Hives said: "She was a determined and confident young woman who knew her way in life. We have had to make sure that those who were closest to Janet have not had to handle the case."

FRIDAY
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SECOND-HAND TOBACCO SMOKE IN PERSPECTIVE

Life always involves some risks. You need to decide which ones are important.

Almost every day, it seems that one thing or another has been discovered to be some kind of health risk.

In one scientific study, even pepper was reported as being life threatening.

But as common sense suggests (and scientists confirm) not everything described statistically as a risk is a meaningful risk.

For example, lots of people have been persuaded that second-hand tobacco smoke is harmful.

Not surprising, perhaps.

After all, we recognise that smoking itself is a risk factor for certain human diseases and that some people find second-hand tobacco smoke unappealing and unpleasant.

But what about second-hand tobacco smoke? Is it really a meaningful health risk to people who've chosen not to smoke?

Not, we think, if you look at the evidence.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency recently conducted a major review of studies on the risks of second-hand tobacco smoke to non-smokers. These studies typically involve non-smokers living with smokers over a long period, such as 20 years.



And this review put the risk of lung cancer from second-hand tobacco smoke at a level well below the risk reported by other studies for many everyday items and activities.

And below, in fact, the risk to health that one other study reported for eating pepper frequently.

As the table below shows, many everyday activities have been statistically associated at one time or another with apparent risks to health.

But reputable scientists say that weak associations aren't necessarily meaningful.

So there's no big campaign to persuade you to give up pepper.

Nor is there any sound justification for a campaign against second-hand tobacco smoke.

If you'd like to decide for yourself, please write to us at Philip Morris Europe S.A., c/o P.O. Box 107, 1000 AC Amsterdam, The Netherlands or fax us on 00 31 20 671 98 89 or access us on: <http://pminfo.yrams.nl>

We'll send you the evidence about second-hand smoke.

We believe you'll find the case convincing.

Everyday Activities	Reported Relative Risk*	Reported Health Effects	Scientific Study References
Diet highest in saturated fat	6.14	Lung cancer	Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Vol. 85, p.1906 (1993)
Non-vegetarian v vegetarian diet	3.08	Heart disease	American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Vol. 31, p. S191 (1978)
Frequently cooking with rapeseed oil	2.80	Lung cancer	International Journal of Cancer, Vol. 40, p. 604 (1987)
Drinking 1-2 glasses of whole milk per day	1.62	Lung cancer	International Journal of Cancer, Vol. 43, p. 608 (1989)
Eating one biscuit a day	1.49	Heart disease	Lancet, Vol. 341, p. 581 (1993)
Drinking chlorinated water	1.38	Rectal cancer	American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 82, p. 955 (1992)
Eating pepper frequently	1.30	Mortality	American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 119, p. 775 (1984)
Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke	1.15	Lung cancer	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1992)
High vegetable diet	0.37	Lung cancer	International Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 25, Suppl.1, p. 32 (1996)
High fruit diet	0.31	Lung cancer	American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 133, p. 683 (1991)

*Relative risk measures how much consuming, or being exposed to something, raises or lowers risk. According to the US National Cancer Institute... "In epidemiologic research, relative risks of less than 2 are considered small and are usually difficult to interpret. Such increases may be due to chance, statistical bias, or effects of confounding factors that are sometimes not evident"

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Second-hand tobacco smoke. Let's keep a sense of perspective.

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سكان الأصل

WPC tells of decision to evacuate bomb store

By KATE ALDERSON

THE Manchester policeman who discovered the lorry containing the IRA bomb spoke yesterday of her fear as she decided, on her own initiative, to evacuate Marks & Spencer.

PC Wendy McCormick, 34, was on routine patrol in the city centre that morning when she was told over her radio about the bomb warning. Within minutes, she had located the bomb outside Marks & Spencer. The vehicle was the only one in the area.

"I was frightened to death. If it had exploded then I wouldn't be here to tell the tale. I just thought: it's got to be this one - let's evacuate. The radio was so busy I couldn't get through, so I took it on my own back to evacuate Marks & Spencer."

She ran in and set about getting shoppers and workers out. "It was an effort to stop people walking past me towards the van, but we did the best we could with 13 officers. I was trying not to swear at people and I was trying to stress that this one was real. She had realised her life was in danger and said to herself that she did not want to die just because 'somebody won't finish their pizza and get out'."

By the time the bomb went off, she was behind the cordon. She was knocked off her feet, but not injured, and began helping the injured and distressed.

She said: "I would never have expected something that big. It was the most frightening thing I've had to deal with in ten years' service."

PC Gary Hartley, 29, joined her just after she discovered the van. He said: "I just couldn't believe that I was so close to such a threat. You think you're going to read about something like that in the newspapers - it didn't seem real."

A picture of PC Vanessa Winstanley, 23, as she rescued a blood-soaked elderly woman, was seen by newspaper readers the next day. PC Winstanley said: "Somebody came up to me and said there was a lady in a shop with head injuries. She was sitting on a chair, obviously in shock and

not speaking. There was blood running from her head down her back and across her chest." PC Winstanley helped the woman into a pub, to wait for the emergency services.

The nearest police officer to the blast flamed himself in a recess in an alleyway as glass and masonry rained down. Inspector Dave Comerford, 46, has been nicknamed "Lucky" by colleagues after emerging with only a nick to his right earlobe.

"There was an unbelievable noise and a blast of heat and compression," he said. "The next thing, the surrounding windows fell upon me. I had a half-inch covering of glass fragments on my head and shoulders."

Mr Comerford, who headed the officers initially evacuating the area, said it would have been "totally impractical" to move huge numbers of people any further from the bomb scene. "You are trying to move people who don't want to go. You have to push them back and then you threaten them. You have 80,000 people behind you trying to get into the city not believing anything is going to happen."

Almost 100 people who lived in the area that took the brunt of the explosion seem likely to lose their possessions. Authorities will not know until today if the Arndale building, where their flats are, will have to be demolished with their possessions still inside. Many occupants are not insured.

Manchester City Council has provided emergency shelter for the blast victims in a university conference centre. However, from today it will be needed by the university.

Candy Shaw, 27, like many of the others, has only the clothes that she was wearing when they had to run for their lives. "On Saturday we were left with nowhere to go, and no money. Businesses are getting help, but nobody seems to be thinking about us."

The refugees had been given £20 by the council. Lynne Binchenough, 47, said: "We have no money, no clothes, and nowhere to go."

Simon Jenkins, page 20



Wendy McCormick, left, and Vanessa Winstanley were on duty in the city centre

Terrorists may be pictured today

By KATE ALDERSON

POLICE are hopeful of releasing descriptions of the Manchester bombers today after analysing hours of video footage and receiving scores of calls from the public.

Colin Phillips, Assistant Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, said that investigators might now know the face of the man who paid £2,000 in cash for the lorry used in Saturday's bombing. Detectives were sifting through masses of information and he expected to announce "significant developments". He added: "We are very hopeful we may have some descriptions of the people."

Officers have received calls from members of the public with information about possible sightings along the route from Peterborough, where the lorry was bought.

"We are still examining a huge number of security videos, but we can't confirm at this stage if we have sightings of the lorry all the way on its route from Peterborough to Manchester," Mr Phillips said. "We are hopeful that we may have caught the bombers on video and we are

sifting through a mass of material."

Police are talking to everyone connected with the sale of the lorry and the transportation of the money used to buy the white Ford Cargo vehicle.

Yesterday, detectives in Peterborough were still interviewing the dealer, Arthurly Loveridge, of Eye, Cambridgeshire, who sold the lorry to an unknown Irishman last Friday. A taxi driver who delivered the cash payment to Mr Loveridge's home was also still being interviewed.

Mr Phillips, who will be in Peterborough this afternoon to release more information about the bombers, said of the two men being interviewed: "I stress we are talking to them as witnesses only."

"Hopefully we will have some sort of description, at least of the person who handed the money to the taxi driver."

The area immediately around the bomb site was still cordoned off yesterday to allow police and forensic scientists to carry out a detailed search, but an outer cordon was lifted on Monday evening.

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The kissagrams who strip people of their dignity

By EMMA WILKINS

THE kissagram business is under threat from companies which breach the boundaries of good taste by humiliating their victims. It was claimed yesterday.

Vindictive requests from ex-wives and boyfriends, who want their former partners publicly embarrassed for as little as £25, should be rejected, directors of reputable kissagram companies say.

The warning comes after Gail Steele, a 44-year-old company director, claimed at an industrial tribunal that she suffered sexual discrimination when male colleagues hired a stripagram for her birthday. The hearing earlier this week was told that Ms Steele's colleagues asked for her to be blindfolded, handcuffed and mutilated.

The kissagram industry, which came to Britain in the 1970s from America, is not governed by any regulations. The lack of rules means company directors should take responsibility for observing the bounds of good taste, according to Steve Ashford, 36, who runs KB Promotions, a kissagram company based

in Croydon. "The whole purpose of kissagrams is to provide fun at a party. If you end up upsetting someone, then that defeats the object."

"The other day I had a request from a woman who wanted a roly-poly stripagram [a fat naked woman] for her husband because they were getting divorced. She wanted to get her own back so I turned it down. I've had requests for pies to be thrown in people's faces or to be covered in shaving foam but it's not the sort of thing I want to get involved with. You end up with a bad reputation."

"A woman called me recently to say she had been in touch with another agency for a male stripper. She was offered a 75-year-old man. That sort of thing affects the reputation of the stripagram business."

Mr Ashford, who charges between £25 and £45 per kissagram, has 50 male and female employees. He also offers clowns for children's parties and singing telegrams for weddings. "There is nothing wrong with someone taking their clothes off as long as the client is comfortable," he said. "If the client is not enjoying it, then a good stripper will know immediately and stop."

There are two main singing telegram companies in London, but between them they cover the Home Counties and parts of Kent and Sussex and there are kissagram agencies in all the main cities.

Earl Thomas, 28, the stripper hired by Ms Steele's colleagues, has offered Ms Steele his apologies and now works in a fancy dress shop in Clapham, south London.

He said: "I don't remember the lady in this case but I'm sorry if she was upset. I changed jobs because I'm getting too old for stripping."

Nigella Lawson, page 19



Earl Thomas: hired to humiliate employee

Dunblane killer's club 'like Hitler Youth'

Shadow minister took his son away from Hamilton

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

GEORGE ROBERTSON, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, removed his ten-year-old son from one of the Dunblane gunman's clubs because it was militaristic and resembled the Hitler Youth.

Mr Robertson, the MP for Hamilton, who has lived in Dunblane for more than 20 years, told Lord Cullen's inquiry yesterday of his ten-year battle to stop Thomas Hamilton operating boys' clubs. The inquiry is investigating the massacre of 16 pupils and their teacher by Hamilton on March 13.

Mr Robertson, who has two sons and a daughter, said that in 1983 his son Malcolm had started to attend Dunblane Rovers, a club run by Hamilton from the gymnasium of Dunblane High School. It offered five-a-side football and gymnastics at a time when there was little for young boys to do in the area.

Initially Mr Robertson had no concerns about the club. Malcolm attended three or four times with some of his friends before missing an evening. Mr Robertson and his wife, Sandra, became alarmed when Hamilton wrote to their son after his one-week absence. The letter reprimanded the boy and asked for an explanation.

The letter concerned Mr Robertson so much that, along

with another parent, he visited the club. The two men watched for 15 minutes through a glass door.

"We were both struck very quickly by the bizarre nature of what was going on," Mr Robertson told the inquiry. "There was a large number of small boys in shorts, stripped to the waist, being bossed around by two or three middle-aged men swaggering around in a very militaristic way. I've since described it as looking a bit like Hitler Youth."

They were marching about. There was something sinister in the way they were conducting themselves."

Mr Robertson and the other father both decided to withdraw their sons from the club. As a result Hamilton had visited him at home the next

day demanding to know his reasons and wanting to speak to Malcolm.

Mr Robertson said he became increasingly concerned that someone like Hamilton, with no qualifications, no checkable background and no credentials could lease a school gym, use the equipment without supervision and be in charge of "an army of small boys".

In 1983 he spoke to Michael Forsyth, now Secretary of State for Scotland but then a newly elected MP for the constituency, about his concerns. He said that as Mr Forsyth questioned him about the evidence he had against Hamilton, he was aware that his arguments seemed weak.

He said that he in no way blamed Mr Forsyth for his cautious reaction at that stage. Mr Robertson said he continued to keep Mr Forsyth informed of Hamilton's activities and sent him leaflets Hamilton posted through doors in Dunblane.

When Hamilton took his grievances to the local government ombudsman and won his case against the Central Regional Council, forcing the council to renew his let of the school, Mr Robertson said he and his wife were in despair.

He told Lord Cullen that the use of the school premises had given Hamilton a bogus respectability. "Had he not been



Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, left, and his Labour Shadow George Robertson at the inquiry yesterday

allowed to get past first base and use public premises, perhaps he would not have gained the same level of frustrated obsession he ultimately ended up in," he said. Mr Forsyth told the inquiry that he first met Hamilton in 1983. He had come to his surgery complaining that certain Scouts leaders were

spreading rumours about him which had led to the council refusing to lease him the school premises for his club.

Initially Mr Forsyth felt Hamilton had a genuine grievance and this feeling was validated by the local government ombudsman's report which backed Hamilton. But over the years Hamilton had

bombarded Mr Forsyth with letters complaining about the Scouts, the council and the police. Mr Forsyth passed them on to the relevant authorities and started to change his views about Hamilton, who he said was clearly "not as straightforward as he first appeared".

The last letter to Mr Forsyth

from Hamilton was dated February 11, 1986, a month before the massacre. In retrospect, Mr Forsyth said, this letter had a different tone to the others and Hamilton, who had argued his case with the tenacity of a terrier, had seemed resigned to giving up the fight.

The inquiry continues.

Shephard orders accent on grammar

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

PUPILS of 14 face tougher tests in grammar, spelling and punctuation after a review of English assessment ordered by Gillian Shephard in her clampdown on "trendy teaching".

The Education and Employment Secretary acted yesterday after academics from Southampton University reported that secondary school pupils were learning more about grammar in foreign language lessons than in English. The researchers found a dramatic decline in the teaching of formal grammar.

Mrs Shephard has asked the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority to re-examine its tests at 14 to see that they reflect the emphasis the curriculum puts on correct English. The revised national curriculum gives a higher priority to spelling, punctuation and grammar, but ministers believe that only rigorous testing will ensure schools implement the changes fully.

Any changes probably would not be introduced until 1998. Commenting on the research, Mrs Shephard said: "If children are to learn to express themselves clearly and effectively and make full use of our wonderful language, they need to be taught how the English language works. This may seem a remarkably obvious message but it is one that sadly was lost sight of by the trendy teaching of the 1960s and 1970s."



Hamilton's ten-year-old son

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20 June

NEWS IN BRIEF

Apology for abuse by priests

A senior member of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland has apologised to children who were sexually abused by priests.

Bishop Seamus Haggarty told a seminar in Londonderry that a "grave and serious dimension when clergy were the offenders".

"It is a matter of the most profound regret that a very small number of clergy has offended in this way. I apologise unreservedly to victims and their families for the violation of trust and for the emotional and psychological damage which they have suffered," he said.

L-test strike

Up to 7,000 driving tests are expected to be cancelled next Wednesday because of a one-day strike by examiners.

The pay strike, by 900 members of the Public Service, Tax and Commerce union, will be followed by a work-to-rule.

Algae hazard

The public has been banned from the largest natural lake in Wales because of toxic algae. The blue-green blooms, which can be lethal to animals, also closed Bala Lake in Snowdonia National Park last year.

Fatal prank

Leigh Morris, 11, strangled himself while trying to amuse his younger sisters by swinging from a washing line. The children were in the care of a babysitter at their home in Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, when the accident happened.

Bird overboard

Bert, the vulture that could not fly, has finally taken to the skies from a hot-air balloon. The year-old African vulture, unwilling to fly after being rescued by humans, took off from above Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, Bedfordshire.

Cox's pipe-in

Firefighters prevented a gas explosion by plugging a fractured pipe with an apple. The pipe, in Stratford-upon-Avon, was damaged after a car crashed into a flat. A fireman took an apple from the rubble for the makeshift repair.

Queue jumpers

John Butcher, a Tory MP, urged ministers to convert the central reservation of the M6 into a picnic area and to allow jugglers and acrobats to perform there, to ease the stress of drivers caught in queues around Birmingham.

CORRECTION

John Abineri is the actor who portrays a butler in the Ferrer-Rocher TV commercial, not the late Preston Lockwood (obituary, May 22).

Trapped hedgehogs bale out of trouble

A FAMILY of hedgehogs survived being racked, stacked, vacuum-packed and transported hundreds of miles inside a bale of hay.

After more than a week, they were spotted by a girl who bought the hay from a pet shop to use for her rabbit's hutch.

It is believed that the mother hedgehog and four new-born young were scooped up by a hay-baler in a field near Reading, Berkshire. The bale was stacked on a lorry and driven to a factory, where it was vacuum-packed inside a heavy plastic sack and left on a factory shelf for ten days.

Later it was transported a hundred miles by lorry to a pet food shop in Southampton, where it was sold to 12-year-old Carin Anderson for her rabbit.

The girl discovered the creatures when she opened the bag at home. She contacted a wildlife rescuer, Dorothy Squires, who said: "It is the most extraordinary thing that any of the had survived. The

mother was dehydrated, and she must have been living on the condensation that was caused by their breath inside the plastic.

"The air had almost run out, and they would have been dead very soon. It is amazing that they have survived at all, a real triumph."

The family will be released into a protected garden once they have recovered from their ordeal.



Carina Anderson with one of the young

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Reform may spark divorce rush

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A SURGE in divorce in the next two years was predicted by lawyers yesterday as separating couples rush to get to the courts before the Government's reforms, agreed in the Commons on Monday night, become law.

Although the Family Law Act will not take effect until January 1, 1999, officials intend to move swiftly to put a framework for testing the measures by this autumn. The Lord Chancellor's Depart-

ment is planning to set up pilot studies around the country, so that divorcing couples will first have an information briefing and the opportunity to use mediation and counselling services.

However, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, said yesterday that the Government would not rush through the Act's provisions for splitting pensions at the time of divorce. He said that ministers would wait for the publication of a White Paper early next year and legislation was not likely to come into effect until

at least 1999. Mr Lilley said: "This is a complex and sensitive issue which needs to take into account changes to matrimonial, tax and pensions law. The Government is not prepared to legislate prematurely in an area which affects so many people."

The reforms will see a new approach to divorce for the 150,000 couples who separate each year, with the scrapping of the "quickie" divorce.

David Hodson, a solicitor with the Family Law Consortium, a Covent Garden practice which offers legal advice,

mediation and counselling, said: "By the autumn, in perhaps half a dozen centres, everything should be in place to bar the law itself." He predicted a rise in work for family lawyers under the old laws. But the next two years would see a culture change, with many more divorcing couples using mediation.

However, there were fears yesterday that the measures might prompt people to divorce who might otherwise have stayed married. Grant Howell, of the solicitors Charles Russell, said: "I have

clients who come to me, not having spoken to their partners, who want to know the options. When I tell them they can be divorced in four months, they go away — and sometimes that is the end of it.

"There has to be a concern that when I say it will now take a minimum of 19 months, if there are children, then I think there will be people who say: 'I can't stand things for that long — I must start proceedings now.'"

Nigel Shepherd, chairman of the Solicitor Family Law Association, said the Bill as passed was very different from its original, and presented a host of bureaucratic hurdles. "Labour's Paul Boateng described it as a dog's breakfast. It still is, although it has a couple more edible courses."

Work still had to be done on the detailed framework, "but family lawyers are determined to get this into a format which will help people come to arrangements more amicably than they do now". He did not predict an immediate rush, but the number of divorces might rise as the implementation of the new law loomed.

There will be transitional arrangements: couples already in the process of divorcing under the two or five-year separation are expected to be unaffected by the new law.



Lahilah Apia described her son Kalum as "my hero"

Kalum, 7, keeps cool to save life of mother

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE coolness of a seven-year-old boy saved his mother's life when she collapsed at home. Not only did Kalum Apia pass on exact details to paramedics, he also arranged for a babysitter to look after his brothers while their mother was in hospital.

Now Kalum is to receive a plaque from North Yorkshire Ambulance Trust, who said his mother owed her life to his prompt actions after she suffered a severe asthma attack at the weekend.

The boy had found Lahilah Apia, 34, in her bed gasping for breath and unable to move or speak. First he searched for her inhaler and, while she used it, telephoned for an ambulance from their home in Whitby, North Yorkshire, carefully describing the situation.

While he waited for the ambulance to arrive, Kalum telephoned a family friend to ask if she could care for his two younger brothers, Ewan, five, and Taram, one.

Mrs Apia said: "Kalum saved my life, he's my hero."

Shake-up shifts emphasis to mediation

By FRANCES GIBB

THE divorce reforms agreed by MPs represent the biggest shake-up since the Divorce Reform Act of 1969. They remove the notion of fault and scrap the "quickie" divorce. The main changes are:

□ The sole ground for divorce will be "irretrievable breakdown". Couples will not have to cite a reason, as now when 75 per cent cite fault-based grounds, such as adultery or unreasonable behaviour, so as to avoid waiting two years to divorce on grounds of separation for five years, if both do not agree.

□ People will not be able to divorce within a year of their marriage. They must then wait a minimum of 12 months (18 months if there are children) — a

"cooling-off" period for reflection.

□ Couples will have to reach agreement on finances and arrangements for children before a divorce order is granted.

□ The divorce nisi and absolute will become one divorce order, to be applied for at the end of the cooling-off period.

□ If couples cannot agree on children and finances, they will be able extend the time for a further 12 months, when the divorce process must start all over again.

□ Everyone seeking a divorce will be obliged to have an information briefing on a range of services, including marriage guidance, counselling, mediation and legal advice.

□ Mediation will have a central role. Everyone will be told about it but it will not be compulsory. Legal aid will be

available for marriage guidance or counselling.

□ Courts will not grant orders in cases where agreements are not reached over children and finances, although if one party is unreasonable and seeks to delay agreement, the courts can grant a divorce order anyway. They will not do so against a spouse's will if this would cause substantial hardship to children or to one of the couple.

□ Courts will have the power, as now, to take into account spouses' conduct when deciding how to divide property and finances.

In addition, the Government has been given the power to introduce regulations on pension splitting, although these will need separate legislation.

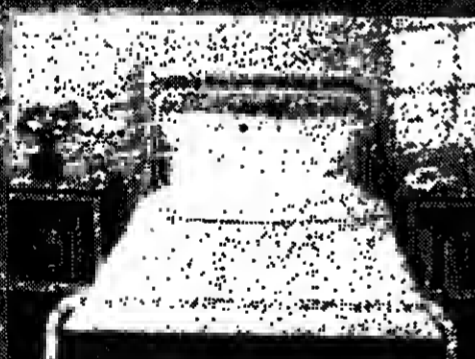
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Hospitals are at full stretch, says survey

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE NHS is experiencing its strongest pressure since the introduction of reforms five years ago, the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts said yesterday. A rise in emergency admissions was said to be pushing hospitals to the limits of capacity.

A survey of 30 NHS trusts and 19 health authorities found increases ranging from 3 to 15 per cent a year, resulting in severe bed shortages, delays to operations and long waits on trolleys.

The ageing population and advances in medical science have added to the pressures. The survey found that new geriatric out-patient cases rose by more than 12 per cent in 1993-94. The average cost of an episode of geriatric care was £2,675 compared with £991 across all acute specialities.

Philip Hunt, director of the association, said yesterday that the pressures could cause waiting lists to lengthen as the NHS struggled to match the rise in demand with a modest growth in funding of 1.1 per cent in real terms. He said: "The survey confirms that very difficult choices are having to be made. While waiting lists will fall or remain on an

even keel in many places, in some parts of the country they are threatening to slip back."

Speaking to the association's annual conference in Harrogate, Mr Hunt attacked critics who claimed that the country could no longer afford fully to fund the NHS. "This would imply the notion of a comprehensive NHS being eventually displaced by a second-rate safety net service for the poor and needy. I don't share that view."

"It is not impossible to fund the NHS properly out of the public purse. I am convinced that economic growth and rising productivity mean that the nation should be able to afford a good deal more health care in the future."

Two junior doctors have found they walk an average of 6.8 miles during a 24-hour shift on call. Dr Nicholas Jones and Dr Dyfed Hughes wore pedometers for a month-long study at the modern Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan. Dr Jones, 28, said: "Walking between departments and wards is like getting in training for a marathon. We would like planners and managers to think more about layout."

From exhaust to happy exhaustion



Ten years ago, it is possible that a doctor caught in a traffic jam in the type of weather we have been enjoying would remember that one of the foul gases he was inhaling was nitric oxide. Nitric oxide, the nitrogen monoxide of chemistry classes at school — and not nitrous oxide, the dentist's laughing gas — is one of the pollutants emitted from car exhausts. Apart from the dangers of this, it was not thought to be of clinical significance, for its therapeutic importance had not then been investigated.

Now, in the best medical circles, nitric oxide is a very fashionable compound and scientists from many different branches of medicine are investigating its properties, both good and bad.

Today when doctors sit in the traffic inhaling the fumes, they should remember that nitric oxide may hold the key to the treatment of impotence in men and may improve the sex lives of women.

An indication of the widespread importance of nitric oxide is that the Royal Society of Medicine held a two-day conference on its clinical implications last week. Four medical knights and one dame chaired the different sessions to discuss the relevance of nitric oxide to cardiology, haematology, obstetrics, immunology, chest diseases and the central nervous system. There seems to be no branch of medicine in which its role may not be of therapeutic importance.

In human tissue, nitric oxide acts as a chemical messen-

ger, and its chief action is as a vasodilator, improving the blood supply. It has obvious implications in venereology and the latest edition of the *BMJ* included a report from Egypt on the trial of a cream used in the treatment of impotence which contains three substances, one of which, isosorbide dinitrate, generates nitric oxide when absorbed. The other two creams used different biochemical pathways to improve penile blood supply.

The Egyptian doctors carried out a randomised, double-blind trial to check the efficacy of their cream in comparison with a placebo when used by 36 impotent men. Sixty-six per cent — 21 of the men in the trial — had satisfactory erections and sexual intercourse when using the cream.

The Egyptians are not the only doctors who have been experimenting with creams for impotence. Dr Malcolm Carruthers, who practises in London, has devised a mixture which contains similar ingredients, but his also includes testosterone. He is still conducting trials, but describes his initial results as encouraging.

One unexpected feature reported by Dr Carruthers is that, as some of the cream is absorbed by the women, their enjoyment is also enhanced.

Dr Stuttaford was appointed OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours and not MBE as reported last week.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD



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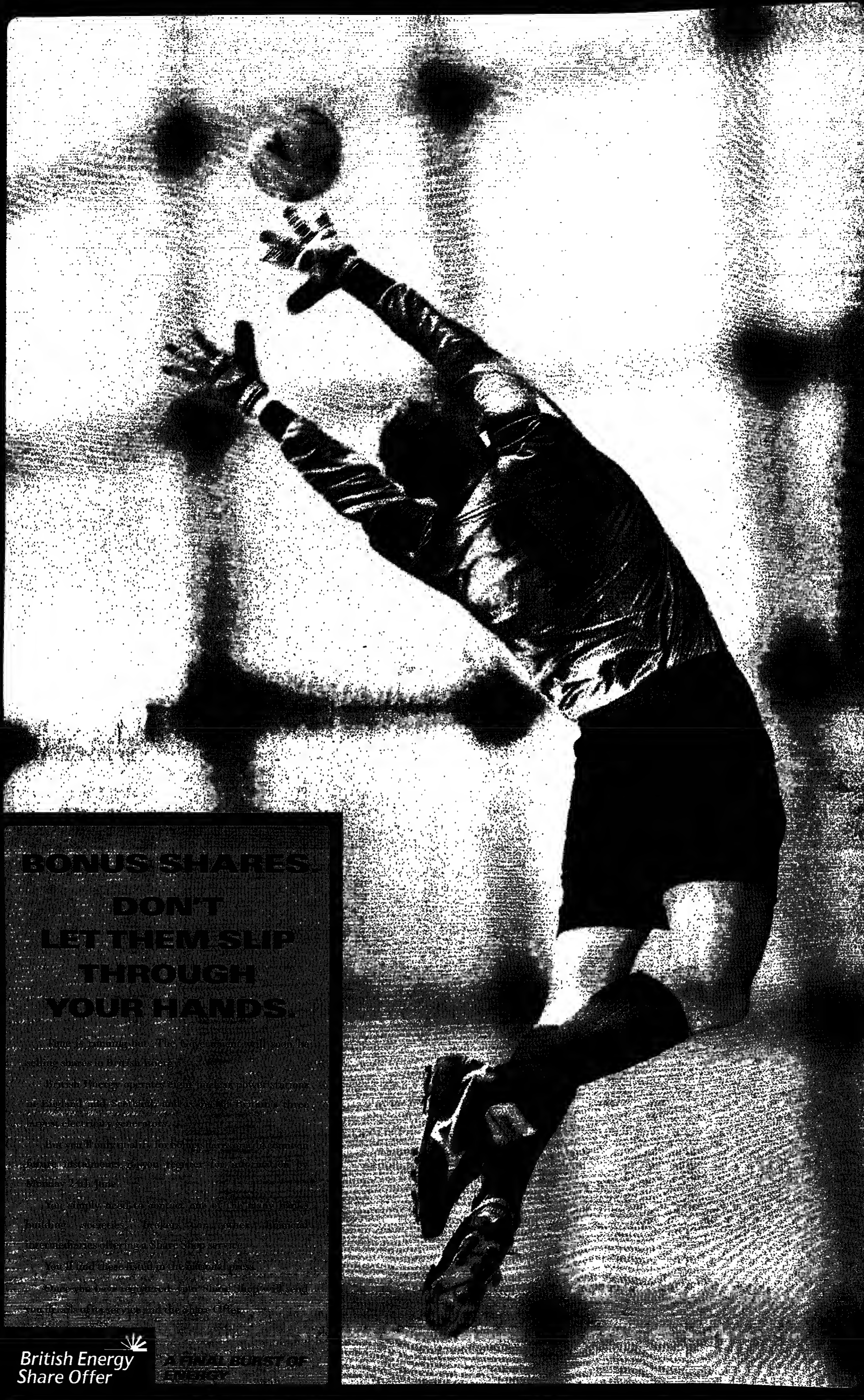
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National Gallery Rubens is put to the tree-ring test

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE National Gallery has agreed to a scientific test of one of its prized paintings, Rubens's *Samson and Delilah*, after a group of artists challenged its attribution. On both stylistic and documentary evidence, they argued, it is a copy by one of the many assistants in the master's workshop rather than the master himself.

They called for the gallery to undertake a dendrochronological test — testing the age of the wood rings in the panel on which it is painted. The test can pinpoint the year when a tree was cut down and has already caused two scholars to "de-attributed" two other sup-

posed Rubens in Vienna. The rings on which *Samson* is painted could establish its date later than its perceived date of 1609. The gallery's decision to carry out the test comes four years after the group made the request. The gallery had insisted that tests were unnecessary since neither the date nor the provenance was in doubt. Euphrosyne Doxiadis, an artist and award-winning scholar, and painters Steven Harvey and Siân Hopkinson — who have devoted many years of research to the Rubens — refused to give up. Their case was strengthened by dendrochronology tests on the paintings in the Vienna

Kunsthistorisches Museum. The portraits of the Archduke Albert and his spouse Isabella of The Netherlands were said to have been painted in 1609.

The revised dating, to 1618, convinced the Dutch scholar Arnout Balis and Walter Liedtke, curator of Dutch and Flemish paintings at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, that the pictures were the work of the young Jacob Jordaens, who was greatly influenced by Rubens.

Christopher Brown, the gallery's chief curator, told *The Times* that he would agree to the test "if it will put the matter to rest". He will invite Peter Klein of the University of Hamburg, an expert in the tests, to inspect the painting when he visits London.

The artists discovered that the *Samson* was attributed to Rubens only in 1929. For 237 years, from 1692, it was always described as a copy after Rubens. For 180 years, it was in the collection of the Princes of Lichenstein. Each of three inventories (1767, 1780 and 1873) warns: "Do not attribute this painting to Rubens."

They argue that the painting is "awkward", primarily in the way that Samson's right foot has been sliced off: they see no valid reason for why Rubens should have distorted its proportions so clumsily. That view is supported by Michael



Samson and Delilah, which scholars believe was not painted by Rubens but by an assistant in his workshop

Reynolds, an award-winning member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, who suggests the hand of Jordaens. Scholars, the artists believe, are conveniently omitting contradictory evidence.

The painting was acquired in 1980, for £2.5 million. For centuries before that, it was attributed to a minor Rubens follower, Jan van den Hoecke. Rubens was commissioned to

paint a *Samson and Delilah* between 1608 and 1609. His client was Nicolaas Rockox.

The painting hung in Rockox's salon until his death in 1640. Its last documented reference is to that year in Rockox's inventory. Then nothing, until 1929, when the present panel was proclaimed by a single scholar as the missing Rubens.

Wolfgang Prohaska, a cura-

tor at the Kunsthistorisches, is convinced that his museum's works are by Rubens. Of *Samson and Delilah*, he said: "It's absurd. This is one of the most wonderful masterworks."

He insisted that the dismissal of it through the centuries meant nothing: "Rubens scholarship developed from the late 19th century." Asked why Rubens would have sliced off a foot, he said:

"Rubens was a wonderful painter. Sometimes he didn't care."

Michael Daley, director of Artwatch UK, which has been highly critical of the National Gallery's restoration policies, said that if the gallery's attribution were incorrect, "they are doing an enormous disservice to Rubens".

Art, page 40

Credit card firms 'fail to admit liability'

BY ADRIAN LEE

CREDIT card companies are accused today of routinely breaking the law by failing to disclose to customers their rights to compensation if they receive poor services or buy faulty goods. The National Consumer Council has called for a new code of practice to prevent people being misled.

Customers are frequently told to complain to retailers when it is the credit card company that is liable to pay compensation, says the council in a report published today.

David Hatch, the council's chairman, said: "If a customer has lost out because their credit card was accepted by a holiday company about to go bust, or a shop selling faulty goods, the card issuer is as much to blame as the retailer. But at the moment claimants are fobbed off unless they can quote the law and have the support of a consumer adviser."

The council believes the code of banking practice should be extended to cover credit card companies, and the Office of Fair Trading should be given stronger powers to impose sanctions. The lower limit on claims of £100 should be abolished, it adds.

Under the 1974 Consumer Credit Act customers can claim losses back from either the retailer or the credit card issuer. Mr Hatch said: "Issuers should only let their cards be accepted by reputable retailers and be accountable for any failures."



Tests cast doubt on Archduke Albert, left. Now Christopher Brown is to have *Samson* checked

Buyer wanted for castle where victors of Culloden stayed

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE castle from which the Duke of Cumberland set out for the Battle of Culloden 250 years ago is for sale for the first time in its history.

The Duke mustered his 8,000 government troops in the grounds of Dalross Castle and marched the Redcoats to victory over Bonnie Prince Charlie and his 4,000 Highland clansmen. The battlefield is two miles from the five-storey castle.

The Grade A listed building, eight miles east of Inverness, has been put to the market at £942,500. It is being sold by Angus Warre, a third cousin of the Mackintosh family who have owned the castle since the early 18th century.

in Peetersfield, Hampshire, and they have therefore decided to sell.

The stone pile, with views over the Moray Firth, has angled turrets and crenellated gables. It was built in 1621 by the 8th Lord Lovat, clan chief of the Lovat Frasers. A century later it passed to the powerful neighbouring family of Mackintosh of



Dalross Castle

Mackintosh, hereditary chiefs of the clan Chattan. The castle has a 749-acre estate, which includes 218 acres of commercial conifer forest, three let farms of nearly 500 acres and 67 acres of vacant farmland of mixed arable and livestock. There is ten and a half acres of woodland and a two-acre paddock.

The castle has a great hall, master bedroom suite, ten other bedrooms, three bathrooms, a dining room, library, and other offices and rooms. The sale is being handled by Langley-Taylor of Edinburgh. The four-star Culloden House Hotel, an 18th-century mansion which was Bonnie Prince Charlie's headquarters the night before he was forced to flee from the battlefield, was sold earlier this month by a local family to an American company for a reputed £3 million.

Homes, page 36

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Blunkett threatens to woo Tory rebels on vouchers

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LABOUR threatened yesterday to enlist dissident Tory MPs to wreck the Government's plans for an expansion of pre-school education unless ministers agree to negotiate an alternative to nursery vouchers.

David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, offered a bipartisan approach after the House of Lords dealt a potentially fatal blow to the voucher scheme on Monday. Peers voted through an amendment to the nursery education Bill to ensure that ministers report to Parliament on trial voucher schemes before extending them nationwide.

The voucher scheme, which offers parents of four-year-olds £1,100 towards the cost of place in a private or state nursery, got under way in April in Norfolk and the London boroughs of Wandsworth, Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea. But Mr Blunkett said that national implementation, planned for April 1997, would be "mayhem". He added: "We don't want to pick up mayhem."

He challenged Gillian

Shepherd, the Education Secretary, to join Labour in creating a new scheme — without vouchers — which would use all available money to create new places. "Unless Mrs Shepherd takes up our offer, we will rally every Tory dissident in a four-line whip to defeat the Government."

Mr Blunkett said that without vouchers John Major's dream of a nursery place for every four-year-old whose parents want one could be realised. He went on: "The Government has dissidents on its side who don't believe the voucher scheme is acceptable. There is nothing to lose now for various individuals who have burned their boats with the Government on other matters. We could rally them behind us in a victory for common sense."

Mrs Shepherd accused Labour of "playing games with children's lives" and said that the Government planned to go ahead with its plans. "It is a cynical attempt by the Labour Party to wreck an initiative which widens choice for parents. As usual they are em-

ploying the old socialist trick of denying others those opportunities which so many of them and their children enjoy."

She is understood to be considering trying to begin the evaluation before the pilot schemes are completed, enabling the vouchers to be offered nationally in April as planned. But MPs said that the Government would commit political suicide if it tried to rush through a national scheme.

Tories warned the Government that the introduction of a national scheme could be highly damaging if it coincided with the general election. Three former Tory ministers are among the party's backbench critics of the scheme. One Tory MP said: "We must accept the Lords change and make a virtue out of necessity. If we are re-elected then we can introduce the scheme on the basis of proper evaluation, rather than rush through flawed changes."

Among the Tory critics are the former ministers Sir Malcolm Thornton, chairman of

the Commons Education Select Committee, George Walden and Nigel Forman. They will each need convincing that a national scheme should be introduced before the pilot has been completed and assessed. Other Tories who have demanded full evaluation of the pilot scheme first are Iain Mills, David Sumberg and Sir Donald Thompson.

Ministers accused peers of wanting to rob parents of the power to exercise choice and claimed that the voucher scheme was already creating new nursery places.

Mrs Shepherd said: "While we naturally take careful note of the vote in the House of Lords, the scheme is firmly set on course for national implementation. Delaying the introduction of the scheme would prevent half a million children and their parents enjoying the benefits of the choice offered through the voucher scheme."

Critics of the voucher scheme say that it will disrupt local authority nursery provision and waste millions of pounds on bureaucracy.



Carey prepares Lords 'sermon' on moral values

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Archbishop of Canterbury is so concerned about declining public morality that he is to initiate an unprecedented full-day debate on it next month.

Dr George Carey will give warning that unless people return to old-fashioned Christian values society will crumble. He will say that morality has been privatised and individuals now feel no compunction to act for the benefit of the community. Instead they are greedy and cynical.

The debate will "call attention to the importance of society's moral and spiritual well-being and in particular to the responsibility of schools". Dr Carey will criticise the Government for focusing too much on arguments about how to teach children mathematics and English while too little time has been spent on ethics.

He is evidently also angry that the Church's views on the controversial Family Law Bill, which has just been passed in the Commons, were not taken more seriously and he was not properly consulted on the divorce issue.

After five years as Archbishop of Canterbury, he is determined to raise his profile, especially after moves by both John Major and Tony Blair to claim the moral high ground for their parties.

With the Tories being attacked for greed and Mr Blair insisting that the Bible taught him that he could never be a

"self-interested" Tory. Dr Carey believes that it is his turn to have a say.

The debate will be held on July 5, just before the General Synod, and will enable Dr Carey to make it clear that he is prepared to weigh into politics. He will also emphasise that he is speaking for all denominations.

Many peers are sceptical about the debate. One Liberal Democrat said: "This will just be ooe, boring sermon from the archbishop but there is nothing we can do to stop him if he wants to navel gaze. Then we will get all the right-wing peers ranting about bringing back hanging and sex education in schools. It will be a self-indulgent farce. Morality should be left to individuals' consciences."

Right-wing Tories welcome the debate. They want to bring up pornography on television, the lottery and the dangers of violent video films.

Other peers have already booked the dining room for lunch, determined to make a day of it, invite a guest and pick up their daily allowance of over £139.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: backbench debates: trade and industry questions; debate on sentencing policy; Northern Ireland Act (Interim Period Extension) Order; backbench debate on availability of environmental information. In the Lords: Hong Kong (War Wives and Widows) Bill; Bill, committee; Treasury Bill, committee; Housing Bill, committee; Stansted Airport Aircraft Movement Limit (Amendment) Order.

Why Blair should condemn futile beef row policy

Tony Blair is being too clever by half. In Bonn yesterday he promised a fresh start for Britain in Europe. But this has been contradicted by his handling of the beef dispute. Labour's equivocal support for the Government's policy of non-cooperation smacks of the pseudo-patriotism and opportunism of Harold Wilson at his worst.

Labour has been trying to have it both ways, criticising the Government and wrapping itself in the flag over non-cooperation. Mr Blair argued that "the entire British national interest is now engaged in trying to secure an agreement for the lifting of the ban by the Florence summit. Whatever our concerns, as a responsible Opposition, we will not undermine that national interest". But that is bogus. It confuses ends and means. Of course, it is in Britain's interest for the ban to be lifted as soon as possible. But the non-cooperation policy is a negotiating tactic. It is not like sending troops into military action which can legitimately be described as a "national interest". It has made easing of the ban harder rather than easier.

The Opposition wants to be able to criticise any likely outcome of the Florence summit. Mr Blair has repeatedly pressed for a timetable for lifting the ban — as have sceptics such as John Redwood. But that has never been one of the Government's demands and is highly unlikely to be part of any EU deal. By pressing this case, Labour is putting a further obstacle in the way of lifting the ban.

Mr Blair's advisers dismiss these criticisms, almost delighting in the comparisons with Wilsonian deviousness. They argue that if Mr Blair had criticised the blocking tactics, the Tories would have attacked Labour as unpatriotic, undermining the British case and the like. As it is, his advisers claim that Labour cannot lose. It can criticise Mr Major either if he fails to agree a deal at Florence or for producing an inadequate package. There is even talk of Labour and the Tory sceptics uniting to bring down the Government on the issue, though that is improbable. But these advisers confuse

short-term tactics and long-term strategy. Mr Blair has always prided himself on his candour and unwillingness to fudge. But he risks compromising this image by his ambivalence on beef. He should have argued that the real national interest would now best be served by reaching agreement with the rest of Europe over lifting the beef ban — not antagonising other countries by pursuing a futile and counter-productive policy of non-cooperation. That would have been consistent with the rest of his Bonn speech.

Mr Blair has much in common with the Tory Europeans: preserving the national veto on defence, immigration and strategy changes; expressing cautious support for a single currency; to see if it can be made to work; and praising the virtues of free and open markets against competition from outside the EU. His emphasis on a flexible labour markets and his warning about the impact of regulations and non-wage costs will not please the unions, though he begged the question of how far this can be squared with signing the social chapter. His emphasis was very different from Robin Cook's Chatham House speech a fortnight ago, which embraced the expensive "social Europe" of Continental parties.

This represents a genuinely "new" Labour approach both to Europe and economic policy. As he argued, domestic policy choices are constrained and solutions adopted by Right and Left may often overlap. The real dividing line may be more between those who respond to global change by urging isolationism and protectionism and those who believe in internationalism and engagement. Mr Blair has damaged this case, and his claims to be a new style of leader, by his short-sighted manoeuvring over beef.

PETER RIDDELL

Britain halts 75 decisions

BRITAIN has blocked 75 substantive measures in Brussels since the Government began its policy of non-cooperation with the European Union over the ban on British beef. (James Landale writes).

According to a written Parliamentary answer, ministers and diplomats have refused to endorse a wide variety of measures in Brussels since May 22, including plans to combat racism and fight fraud within the EU budget. Many

of the blocked moves concerned regular European business such as ministers agreeing a common position on a particular subject, planning future summits, or simply deciding to carry out a course of action.

Some measures were important, others were less so, including decisions on whether or not to send EU observers to the Mongolian elections or whether VAT should be imposed on cut flowers.

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Arabs warn of war as Netanyahu picks team

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister-elect, Benjamin Netanyahu, unveiled his right-wing Government yesterday amid squabbles in his Likud-led coalition and warnings of war across the Arab world.

He named 16 Cabinet members, but failed to resolve the problem of what post, if any, to give Ariel Sharon, the veteran Likud hawk and architect of election victory.

Mr Netanyahu was forced to take three extra portfolios — Foreign Affairs, Housing and Religious Affairs — temporarily into his own hands, as one of his main right-wing allies, David Levy, refused to take over the Foreign Ministry until Mr Sharon is given a role.

Mr Levy later held talks with Mr Netanyahu, and Likud officials were hoping for a solution to the dispute before the Knesset's vote of confidence in the new government, last night.

The ministers named were drawn from a coalition of the Likud bloc with three religious parties and two centre-right groups which together hold a comfortable 66-seat Knesset majority. Other leading Cabinet members include Yitzhak Mordechai as Defence Minister, Dan Meridor as Finance Minister, and Avigdor Kahalani as Internal Security Minister. All are considered moderates in the right-wing camp.

Mr Netanyahu appealed for the reopening of unconditional peace talks with Arab states. As he addressed the Knesset over repeated angry interventions by one of the few

Israeli Arab deputies, Jewish settlers called for the number of Jews in the occupied territories to be tripled to nearly 500,000 over the next four years of rule by the Likud coalition.

Heralding a new era in the Middle East, Mr Netanyahu pledged a very different approach from the "land for peace" policies which won his Labour predecessor, Shimon Peres, the Nobel Peace Prize. Instead, he told deputies, the emphasis would be on security, with the freeze on settlement-building in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip ended.

Addressing Syria, Lebanon and other Arab states, the ninth and youngest ever Israeli Prime Minister said: "Let us conduct direct negotiations for peace: negotiations that will carry the Middle East to an era of stability and prosperity, negotiations without preconditions."

Mr Netanyahu said: "That is the key — there are no preconditions. Each side can present its concepts and positions without forcing the other side to accept these conditions in advance. We can reach a real peace with our neighbours."

He emphasised that the security of Israelis must be inherent in any accord, which must achieve "a stable and viable peace, not a passing and temporary agreement."

The tough guidelines of his new Government infuriated many Arab states and led Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, to say: "Expanding settlements, annexing Jerusalem, not withdrawing from the Golan Heights are requirements for peace destruction, not peacemaking." Abu Ala, a close aide to Yassir Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, described the guidelines as "a declaration of war."

The outgoing Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, delivered a passionate plea to his successor not to freeze the peace process, and to meet Mr Arafat.

Reporter held: Israel has confirmed that it is holding Ali Dia, a Lebanese reporter who works for the French news agency, Agence France-Press (AFP), and that he has been interrogated over possible links to Hezbollah.



□ YAACOV NEEMAN, Justice Minister: an Orthodox Jew, who handled the business dealings in the Jewish state of the late British media tycoon Robert Maxwell. Aged 54, he has been linked with the National Religious Party for many years. He is likely to be called on to mediate between secular and religious Jews because he is trusted by both sides. A former director-general of the Finance Ministry, a position he held from 1979 until 1981, he is a specialist in corporate, financial, and tax laws. He is, therefore, likely to be called on to advise the Government on the reform and repeal of laws to create an economy that is more based on private enterprise. Mr Neeman is married, with six children, and lives in Jerusalem in the Jewish quarter of the Old City.



□ NATAN SHARANSKY, Minister of Trade and Industry: has proved his mettle by securing concessions for the 600,000 new immigrants from the former Soviet Union. They are the backbone of support for the Israel Bealiya Party he founded this year. Mr Sharansky, 48, the best known former Soviet Jewish *refusenik*, set up the party on the tenth anniversary of his release from Moscow's Lefortovo prison in an East-West spy swap. He is likely to prove one of the most charismatic members of the Cabinet, where he will fight hard for the social issues in his platform. He is a friend of Benjamin Netanyahu, shares his views on security issues and is certain to prove one of the strongest bulwarks in the Government against excessive demands by the religious parties.



□ YITZHAK MORDECHAI, Defence Minister: Kurdish-born, he is in the classic mould of soldier turned politician. As the only general to head all three army commands — Northern, Southern and Central — he has experience of most security problems. Popular with his men, but less so among senior officers, he was Benjamin Netanyahu's chief campaign organiser. His gesture in joining Likud two months after Yitzhak Rabin's assassination was much appreciated by the rank and file. Awarded the Medal of Valour in the 1973 war, his courage is undeniable, but he has been accused of lacking original strategic thought and is noted for what the *Jerusalem Report* called "an almost childish inability to accept criticism".



□ DAN MERIDOR, Finance Minister: left-leaning member of the Likud Party and one of the most talented men on the front bench. A friend of Yossi Beilin, one of the outgoing Labour architects of the peace negotiations with the Palestinians. Some observers here argue he has more in common with Labour than Likud, despite being regarded as one of the leading "princes" in his party. A lawyer aged 48, he first came to prominence as Minister for Justice under the late Menachem Begin. It was in this role that he became regarded as too liberal by many of his Likud colleagues because of his concern for human rights, especially in the Palestinian territories and for the rule of law. Many would have been happy to see him in charge of peace talks.



Netanyahu: "We can reach a real peace"

Panama rejects drug allegations

By DAVID ADAMS

MORE than six years after American troops invaded Panama to oust Manuel Noriega, the drug-trafficking dictator, the Government of Panama is again facing accusations of links to the drugs trade.

The scandal has strained relations at a delicate stage in talks over a possible extension of the American military presence in Panama. Angry Panamanian officials have rejected the allegations as part of a disinformation campaign to smear the Government of President Balladarez, a former political ally of Noriega, who is in a Miami jail. Some officials have likened the affair to events in Colombia, where President Samper has been fighting accusations that his party was funded by drug traffickers.

The Panamanian charges stem from the collapse in January of a politically well-connected bank, Banaico, with debts of more than \$50 million (£33 million) to swindled depositors. Investigations have since disclosed that the bank was deeply involved in laundering money for Colombia's Cali cocaine cartel. One of the bank's senior officers was a leading figure in the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party, and an important contributor to Señor Balladarez's 1994 election campaign.

American officials say they are worried by what they describe as the high level of corruption in Panama, lax banking and corporate regulations, weak customs controls, and a growing domestic drug abuse problem. "There's so much money laundering in Panama, it's hard to know where to start," said Robert Gelbard, the Assistant Secretary for International Narcot-

feared Panama would be vulnerable to drug trafficking after US troops leave.

"Panama has to think of its future. The US will reduce its presence and if one considers that the American military presence has had a dissuasive effect [on drug cartels], one has to ask oneself what will happen to Panama?" he said.

Under the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty, the United States is due to hand over the 52-mile inter-oceanic waterway on December 31, 1999. Related deals call for the closure of American military bases, including the Southern Command HQ, the nerve centre of all US military operations in Latin America.

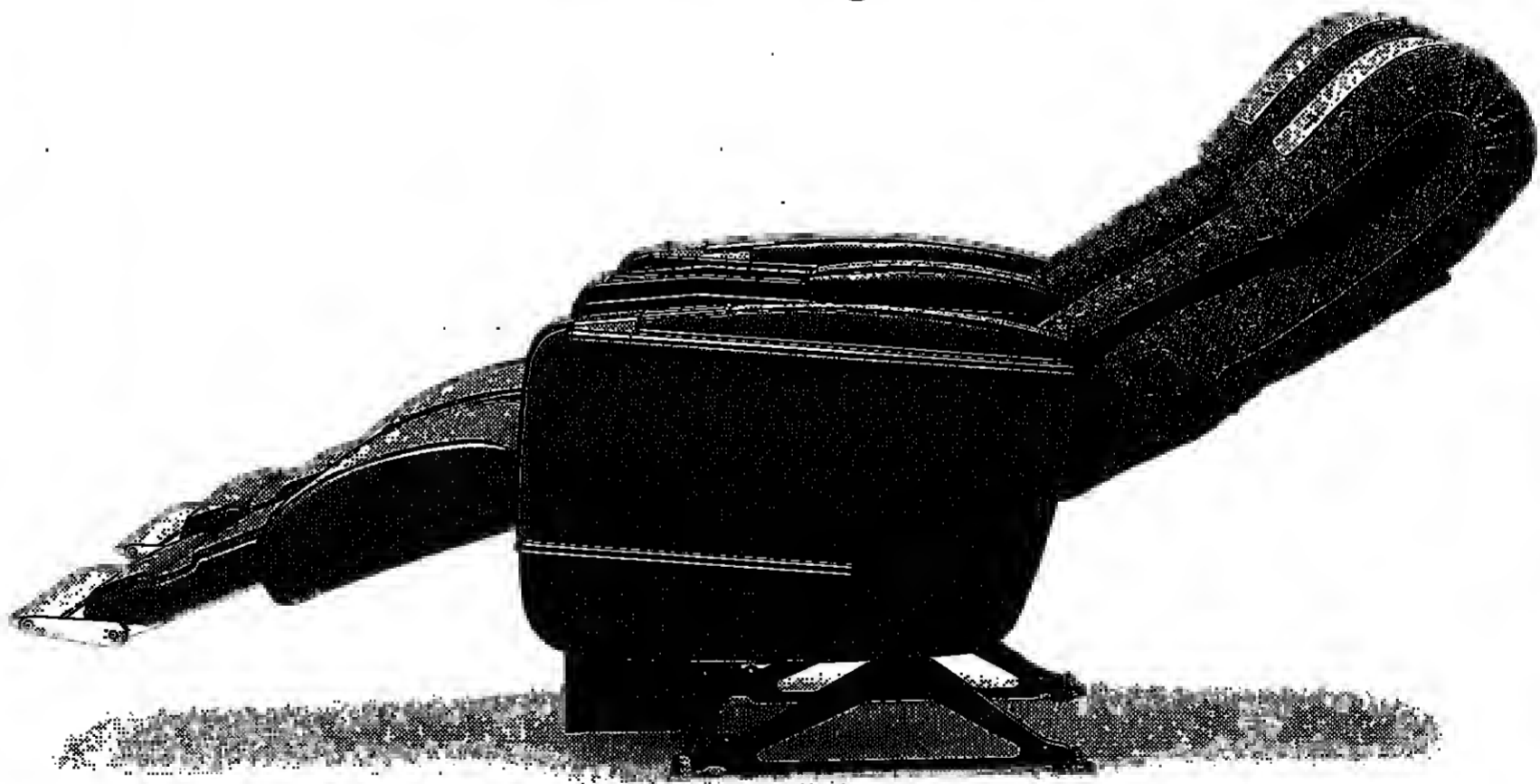
About 25 per cent of the area has already reverted to Panama, including two military bases last year. By the time the Southern Command closes next summer, there will be 4,400 American troops, a reduction of more than 50 per cent since 1992.

While there has been talk of extending a limited American military presence after 1999, formal negotiations have been stalled by political and financial considerations.

Talk about a lingering American presence stirs Panamanian feelings of nationalism. The United States has played an influential role in local politics since 1903, when President Roosevelt engineered Panama's independence from Colombia. American troops came to Panama as part of the project to build a canal that would link the Atlantic and Pacific trading routes. They stayed on after the canal opened in 1914, justifying their presence as necessary to protect international commerce, first from Germany and its allies in the Second World War, and then from the threat of Soviet-

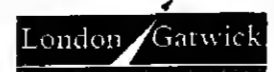
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Blair courted by Kohl as leader of modern Left

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, gave the most important signal yet that he has transferred his affection from John Major to Tony Blair by giving the Labour leader an 85-minute audience.

Mr Blair's 24-hour trip to Bonn was remarkable for the way in which not only Herr Kohl but the whole German political establishment courted a man who has yet to win a general election. President Herzog discussed Europe with him for an hour; top businessmen thundered their applause as he delivered the Labour line on European monetary union; the Social Democrats feted him as the leader of the modern Left.

The fact Blair as Opposition leader was received by both the President and the Chancellor has caused a stir among political observers. "Government circles say he is already being regarded as Major's successor and that explained the unusual interest in him."

Opposition leaders rarely see the Chancellor — Gennadi Zyuganov, the Russian presidential candidate, was snubbed only last month — and if they do make it, they are granted between 35 and 45 minutes. Such was the case of Lionel Jospin, the French So-

cialist. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, was recently granted 45 minutes.

There has been a significant shift in German attitudes towards Labour since the last Blair visit just over a year ago. Then the Labour leader set out his European credentials at the Social Democratic think-tank and met the Chancellor for a short session.

Mr Blair was determined on that occasion to show he was not prepared to surrender British positions on the national veto; the Chancellor was careful to praise Mr Major as "thoughtful and clever".

This time there has been no public reference at all to the Prime Minister, who seems to have flickered in and out of the Bonn talks like Banquo's ghost. And while Mr Blair indicated that he was not going to be pushed around by the Germans over beef (on which he presented sharper conditions than those of the Government), his European repertoire — from the social chapter to monetary union — pleased the Chancellor.

"Kohl is coming to see Blair as the new Felipe González," said a senior German official. "It is already obvious that he will fill a gap."

Señor González was of a different generation from Herr Kohl and had fundamen-

mentally different politics, but he rarely disappointed the German leader. It is by no means clear that Mr Blair will be as easy a partner.

The kinship between the Chancellor and European Socialists — Wim Kok of The Netherlands, Jacques Delors, the late François Mitterrand, Señor González, the Italian Centre-Left — is not merely a matter of personal chemistry. The Kohl vision of Europe seems naturally attuned to European social democracy. That fact alone has robbed Germany's opposition Social Democrats of any coherent alternative to Europe.

The red-carpet treatment for Mr Blair is more than just a statement of disillusionment with the Major Government. It reflects a sea-change that has occurred in German politics. Herr Kohl, say insiders, has now decided to fight the 1998 general election.

The Chancellor believes his final historic mission of achieving monetary union is within his grasp and he is determined to be the man who introduces the single currency. That changes the context of his personal politics. As he told Mr Blair on Monday: "We need a Britain within Europe, just as Britain needs us."

Moreover, the chances are strong that Mr Blair will be Prime Minister when Britain holds the European presidency in the first half of 1998, the crucial period for monetary union. Mr Blair appeared in Bonn this week like a young man wanting to impress sceptical in-laws. Within 18 months, however, the relationship may well be differently weighted, leaving Herr Kohl — buffeted by popular opposition to monetary union — dependent on Mr Blair's help.

As on earlier missionary visits to Bonn — such as that of Gordon Brown last month — Labour's sister party, the Social Democrats, are sidelined. Oskar Lafontaine, their chairman, had to wait patiently until Mr Blair had finished with the Chancellor for a long-delayed meeting.



Relieved of command: General Grachev's departure will win "millions of votes"

Loyal Grachev sacrificed to rescue Yeltsin

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

DISMISSAL

THE way that Pavel Grachev clung to his post as Russia's Defence Minister became a saga that kept the country enthralled.

Widely reviled in the army, accused of corruption and responsible above all for military disasters in Chechnya, General Grachev, 48, had become Mr Yeltsin's longest-serving minister.

Aleksandr Lebed, the general turned politician who finally engineered his downfall, said: "Pavel Grachev is personally loyal. In our country that is the main thing."

The decision to dismiss him will be extremely popular in the military. "Yeltsin, by removing Grachev, is rewarded by the gratitude of the army with hundreds of thousands of votes," the political magazine *Izvestia* commented. "And then there are officers' families and conscripts and their parents. He will collect several million votes."

The general's survival was due to his complete devotion to his boss. On two occasions he rescued the President in dramatic circumstances. During the attempted coup of August 1991, the former paratrooper commander refused the orders of the leaders and backed Mr Yeltsin. For that

service he was made Defence Minister in May 1992. Then, during the bloody showdown with the opposition in October 1993, he agreed to use tanks to attack the parliament building.

But critics maintain the general's term in office was characterised by seizure and stagnation. Military reforms failed to take place, generals lined their pockets and conscripts went hungry, they claimed.

The Moscow newspaper *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, which conducted a sustained campaign against General Grachev, alleged that he and his cronies got rich during Russia's military withdrawal from Germany. It dubbed him "Pasha Mercedes", a label that stuck with him.

When Dmitri Kholodov, the *Moskovsky Komsomolets* reporter who investigated the story, died in a bomb explosion in October 1994 the calls began for General Grachev to resign. But President Yeltsin spoke up for him in the strongest terms, and called him "the best Defence Minister that Russia and the Soviet Union ever had".

Lebed becomes a force to be reckoned with

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

NEW ALLIANCE

A NEW political force was born in Russia yesterday after President Yeltsin appointed Aleksandr Lebed, a former army general and the third placed presidential candidate, to the post of National Security Adviser.

In a move which seemed certain to clinch the Russian leader's victory in his second-round re-election attempt next month, General Lebed agreed to serve under the President in return for a powerful new position as head of the Presidential Security Council.

The job will oversee the armed forces, the police and the internal security services, and General Lebed said he intended to broaden his powers to include fighting crime, reforming the army and cracking down on official corruption.

"This is the union of two politicians, two different programmes," said a

beaming President Yeltsin, who may be planning to groom his new ally as the heir to the Kremlin leadership. "Lebed's programme will enrich mine."

The 6ft, chain-smoking former paratrooper wasted no time in flexing his muscles, sacking his long-time rival General Pavel Grachev, the unpopular but loyal Defence Minister. He was replaced, for the time being, by General Mikhail Kolesnikov, the chief of staff.

General Lebed, 46, said he had thwarted an attempt by five pro-Grachev generals to stage a mutiny in the armed forces to intimidate the President.

Experts believe that President Yeltsin's alliance has clinched his victory in the second round run-off election early next month against

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader. Although the Kremlin chief finished only three points ahead of Mr Zyuganov, his re-election campaign is in a much stronger position to pick up new votes than the Communists.

General Lebed predicted that 80 per cent of his 11 million voters would support his decision to take up his new post, suggesting they would also back President Yeltsin.

Opinion polls taken before the new alliance showed that about 30 per cent of Lebed supporters would vote for President Yeltsin next time. More than half of those who voted for Grigori Yavlinsky, the liberal leader, and even a few of the supporters of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader, will also switch their support to the President.

Explaining his acceptance of the job, the Afghan War veteran said he was carrying out promises he made to restore order in Russia and prevent bloodshed. "I was facing two ideas — an old one that has shed lots of blood and a new one which is being implemented very badly at the moment but has a future," said the general, referring to the choice of backing the Communists or the reformers. "I have chosen the new idea."

The Communists could not disguise their disappointment, consoling themselves only by predicting that General Lebed's political career would be over before it had started. □ Yeltsin backed: Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of Kazakhstan, in effect backed Boris Yeltsin's re-election attempt yesterday by calling on Russian voters to support democracy and market reforms. (Reuter)

Leading article, page 21



A view of strained Bonn ties with the British Government: "England gets ready for a final against Germany"

Leading article, page 21

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The Spider meets the most demanding safety standards and for those who do not like to sacrifice their creature comforts for driving pleasure, there is central locking, power steering, height and reach adjustable steering column, electric windows and sound system.

The bucket seats have been ergonomically designed: decidedly sporty in shape, they are heavily bolstered for good support and comfort.

For obvious reasons, security on the Spider has to be stringent and the sports car is fitted with a sophisticated on-board immobiliser system which freezes the engine management computer, preventing the engine from being started without the correct key.

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THE TIMES
TOKEN 4

Afghan veteran turns his fire on 'pointless' wars

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
IN MOSCOW



AS FOR so many Soviet soldiers, the Afghan War was a key experience in the life of General Aleksandr Lebed. On the one hand, it set him on the path to first military, and now political, success. On the other, it began a process of disillusionment with Soviet communism, and indeed with politicians in general.

As a fighting officer in Afghanistan, General Lebed rose to command a paratroop battalion. Although he speaks of his service there and his unit with pride, the general, who is married, makes no effort to defend the Soviet intervention. "They sent us in there to kill and be killed with no preparation, no knowledge of the country, its society, culture or history, hardly even a proper map, and for no sensible or clear objective," he said. "It was a crime against the army and the men who died."

In recent years, General Lebed's anger over the Afghan debacle has resurfaced in his opposition to Russia's military role in Tajikistan. As he said two years ago, during a flare-up of that conflict, "I cannot see why Russian soldiers are helping one group of Tajiks kill another. What if we change our mind and support the other side? What will our boys have died for?"

General Lebed was from the start a bitter critic of the war in Chechnya, which he has repeatedly compared to Afghanistan.

istan. His feelings stem less from a sympathy for the Chechens, whom he has described as "parasites", and more from an acute and accurate foreboding of the damage the war would do to Russia.

That has also been the position of the last Soviet commander in Afghanistan, General Boris Gromov, who is tipped to become Defence Minister. With General Lebed and General Gromov at the head of the armed forces, there might be some chance of a real commitment to withdraw from Chechnya. However, with regard to both Tajikistan and Chechnya, General Lebed may find what many critics of military intervention have found: that it is one thing to criticise from opposition, another to take responsibility for withdrawal and possible humiliation.

Afghanistan is also said to have seen the origins of General Lebed's personal dislike for General Pavel Grachev, who was his commander there. The story goes that General Grachev once deliberately kept him on duty for

three nights in succession to test or punish him.

If that is true, then with the removal of General Grachev as Defence Minister this week, General Lebed may be said to have got his own back. It remains for him to deal with what he sees as General Grachev's legacy of demoralisation, military corruption and decay. The demoralisation dates back to Afghanistan and has been aggravated by events in Chechnya.

Acute dislike among Russian officers of unnecessary and pointless military operations goes far beyond the two generals. A recent opinion poll of 600 Russian majors and colonels, commissioned anonymously by the US Livermore National Laboratory, indicated that big majorities not only opposed the future use of the military to suppress secessionist movements such as that in Chechnya, but even said they would refuse to obey such orders.

All this is far from the Western image of an aggressive and expansionist Russian military; but it is backed by anti-militarist attitudes now current throughout Russian society and is closely linked to a passionate desire among most young men not to do military service. The origins of that sentiment also lie partly in the casualties and suffering of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Herein, too, lie some of the roots of General Lebed's political appeal, for he combines the image of a tough, patriotic, disciplined soldier with that of a moderate and restrained commander who hates military adventures and unnecessary loss of life.

In many ways, this is rather close to the combination of attributes that made General Colin Powell seem an ideal candidate for President of the United States. The resemblance is not a coincidence. General Powell's generation of American officers became far more cautious and thoughtful about military operations as a result of their own particular wartime experience, as has often been said, Afghanistan was Russia's Vietnam.



General Aleksandr Lebed at a pre-election meeting with his supporters. President Yeltsin yesterday appointed him National Security Adviser

Army strongman turns shining knight

FROM CAREY SCOTT
IN MOSCOW

IN RUSSIA, where men are expected to sleep around or drink themselves into oblivion, or both, General Aleksandr Lebed looks like a man who does neither. That could explain his unmistakable appeal for women voters.

Meet him in person and he immediately challenges you with his cold blue eyes, staring down from his imposing



The Russian election kingmaker as a child

height, daring you to hold his gaze. It is an amusement for him, a contest of wills. He always wins. You hush unprofessionally and avert your eyes.

Then there's the voice. Writers get carried away by this, his trademark. It is a deep bass cannon-boom—very low and measured, and chillingly sexy.

General Lebed, as everyone now knows, is the man of the moment, the kingmaker, the man who can decide who wins the Russian presidential election.

"Oooh, he's so honest," women say when they explain why 15 per cent of the population voted for him. Perhaps, I suspect the more likely reason is that with his rugged physique and quick banter, General Lebed has single-

WOMEN'S VOICE

handedly introduced some sex appeal to the Russian political forum. In a nation with a serious military hero culture, the girls always did like a man in uniform, and Gennadi Zyuganov and President Yeltsin are hardly heart-throb material.

Enter General Lebed—or Sasha, as he is known. In his last army posting, in Transdnestr, women lay down on the runway to try to stop his plane leaving when he quit. They said they feared war would break out if he left. That, the rest of the female population realised when they got a look at him, was just an excuse. The girls in Transdnestr just wanted him for themselves.

Russian women, surrounded by weak, drunken excuses for husbands, are captivated by his masterly air, and his decision to become teetotal—so that at least one person in this country is sober!

But sobriety alone does not guarantee charm. It was his wife Inna's pre-election television interview that revealed the soft romantic behind his tough exterior. She was giggly and girly, and irritatingly pretty, and showed us cute pictures of Sasha cuddling the Old English sheepdog he loves so much. She looked like she actually loved him. And thousands of Russian women sighed and went to vote for their knight in shining armour.

Carey Scott is Moscow correspondent of The Sunday Times



Inna Lebed: on way to vote for her husband



Aleksandr Lebed, the former Afghan War paratroop commander, on the day that he married Inna

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Burghers make mince of Canada geese

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FEATHERS fluttered in a small town in upstate New York yesterday after officials acted decisively on a problem shared by much of Britain: what to do with the rising nuisance of Canada geese.

In Clarkstown, a normally quiet rural settlement, the local council rounded up a large number of the birds and packed them off to the slaughterhouse. In a few days' time, packages of free goose meat will be offered to the town's needy and elderly.

The decision has led to much squawking, not only from the doomed creatures but also from local fainthearts who criticised the council for "dangerous double standards". They said that the geese were "potentially tainted" and feared that "poor men, women and children will eat unregulated and unsupervised flesh". A Coalition to Prevent the Destruction of Canada Geese was formed to co-ordinate protests.

The alternative view, more commonly held by the practical people of Clarkstown, is that the free goose meat will be welcomed by people who cannot normally afford such delicacies. They see the scheme as a sensible way of reducing the numbers of Canada geese, which have flourished to near plague proportions and which leave a foul mess on the village green, play areas and public pavements.

Charles Holbrook, the town supervisor, said he had expected some protests but that it made sense to feed hungry people with meat that would otherwise have been thrown away. To demonstrate his faith in the goodness of the meat, Mr Holbrook will himself be sitting down to a supper of gooseburgers.

Security scandal deals new blow to White House

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE White House, reeling from a barrage of criticism over Whitewater and "Travelgate", rapidly reshuffled its personnel security office yesterday and effectively dismissed the man responsible for improperly requesting FBI background files on hundreds of Republicans.

On the eve of congressional hearings into the scandal, Craig Livingstone, director of the personnel security office, was given administrative leave as the White House prepared to appoint a new security chief in his place. The White House, facing increasing Republican and internal complaints about invasion of privacy and misuse of the agency, has been desperate to avoid further political damage for the Clintons at a time when a damning Senate report on Whitewater has caused a downward surge in the polls for the President.

Criticism has come not merely from Republicans but also from Louis Freeh, the FBI director. Last week Mr Freeh described the White House requisition in 1993 and 1994 of FBI background documents on more than 400 people who had worked in previous administrations as "egregious violations of privacy".

Congress and Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, began today an investigation into the improper request for background checks. The White House has continued to portray the episode as an innocent bureaucratic mistake, in which legally protected background information was gathered on such Republican notables as James Baker, the former Secretary of State; Martin Fitzwater, the former press secretary; and Tony Blankley, now the spokesman for Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker.

"We have seen nothing that contradicts that view," said one White House official, who denied that Mr Livingstone had been "disciplined". "But very clearly there is a need for a more senior management structure at the office."

There was little doubt, however, that Mr Livingstone, the man at the heart of the controversy, was being distanced quickly from any connection to either the President or Mrs Clinton.

The Republicans, alluding to the bad old days of J. Edgar Hoover, are asking whether Mr Livingstone had harnessed the powers of America's foremost law-enforcement agency for political ends. They said Mr Livingstone was merely the latest in a long line of scapegoats for the Clintons.

"Obviously they are going to throw anyone to the wolves they can to protect the President and First Lady and then act like nothing has happened," Dan Burton, the Indiana Republican on the House government reform and oversight committee, said.

Mr Livingstone, who had worked on the 1992 campaign and the inauguration had no background in security before his appointment as director in 1993. His only previous experience, it seems, was as a restaurant bouncer, although he has since claimed that he was once a public relations man for a casino in Atlantic City.

During the campaign, Mr Livingstone was well, and refer to him patronisingly as Craig Flintstone, believe even he must have realised he should not have had the list, but continued to allow the files into the security office because of his love of intrigue and desperate need for acceptance.

Two years ago, Mr Livingstone said his main task was to remain unobscured. "My job is to remain invisible," he said. "If I am around, something is wrong."

That certainly has been the case ever since. Mr Livingstone has been party to most of this Administration's bleakest moments. In May 1993, on the day that seven members of the Travel Office were dismissed, it was he who wrote the memorandum barring them entry to the White House. When Vincent Foster, the deputy White House counsel, was found dead in a park outside Washington, Mr Livingstone had accompanied William Kennedy, the associate counsel, to identify the body.

Two Secret Service agents have since said they saw him leaving the lift beside Foster's suite with a briefcase and box of documents, but Mr Livingstone has always denied he removed any notes from the office. Although the White House has tried to portray Mr Livingstone as clueless, it is a picture that does not match one offered last week by Gary Aldrich, a former FBI agent who spent five years assigned to the White House. In an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, Mr Aldrich described Mr Livingstone as a man taking orders from above.



Livingstone: has lost job



Investigators search the charred wreckage of the Hills Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Rocky Point, North Carolina, for clues to the arson attack

American arson attacks claim four more churches

BY TOM RHODES

PRESIDENT CLINTON will meet governors of the Southern states in Washington today to debate his latest domestic crisis—a continuing arson epidemic that left a further four churches in flames within 24 hours.

Two black Mississippi churches only four miles apart were destroyed by fire in the early hours of yesterday morning while another two were razed in North Carolina and Georgia during the previous night. FBI and arson specialists were called into the Mississippi hamlet of Kossuth to investigate the blazes at the Mount Pleasant and Central Grove Missionary Baptist churches but seemed unable to shed any light on what many suspect are more cases of racially inspired arson.

"We've got no eyewitnesses and no evidence," said James Cavanaugh, an agent for the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. "This is getting disturbing. It is getting disgusting."

Earlier, the Hills Chapel Missionary Baptist at Rocky Point, North Carolina, and the Pine Lake Baptist Church in Georgia, where the congrega-

tion is predominantly white, were destroyed by fire, adding to the growing caseload of nearly 40 church buildings that have been destroyed by fire in the past 18 months.

Mr Clinton, who has devoted much attention to the issue and visited the site of a burn shell in South Carolina last week, issued another appeal. "There is not another country in the history of the world that has valued religious liberty and values religious expression more than the United States," he said. "And this tears at the very heart of what it means to be American."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Volcano ash disrupts air travel

Wellington: Clouds of thick volcanic ash from Mount Ruapehu grounded planes, closed five New Zealand airports and caused travel chaos yesterday. The eruption shot red hot rocks and debris thousands of feet into the air and tremors were felt 25 miles away. Towns and farms downwind to the north were blanketed by ash, but neither injuries nor damage have been reported. (AP)

Bomber charge

Washington: Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, the reclusive former mathematics professor, has been charged as the Unabomber for four bomb attacks that killed two people and injured two others. (Reuters)

Call for curbs

Vienna: Jörg Haider, whose far-Right party won nearly a quarter of the votes in December's general election, called for curbs on Muslim immigration, saying it threatened Austrian culture. (Reuters)

Laos clean-up

Bangkok: An American military team arrived in Laos to help to clear out bombs and other devices. Delayed explosions have killed or maimed thousands since American forces dropped them. (AP)

Refugees return

Monrovia: The *Zolotitsa*, a Russian trawler carrying about 400 Liberian and other African refugees, has returned to Monrovia after three weeks at sea. She was turned away by Ghana and Togo. (AFP)

Floods kill ten

Rabat: Six Moroccans, including a woman and her two children, and four French people died in storms and flooding in Morocco last weekend, MAP, the official news agency, said. (Reuters)

Talked down

Windhoek: A man threatening suicide by jumping from a crane outside Namibia's new Supreme Court was saved when officials promised him a meeting with Hage Geingob, the Prime Minister. (AFP)

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The look isn't everything

Britain's young graduates should forget concepts and get back to the basics

Fashion journalist of the year



IAN R. WEBB

IN THE 1970s, rock music gave us the concept album (who could forget groups such as Yes and Genesis?), and in the 1980s we were treated to conceptual art (remember those bricks). Now the 1990s offers conceptual fashion.

This year's crop of fashion graduates (the designers of tomorrow) who showed their end-of-course collections in London last week at Bhs Graduate Fashion Week — 25 catwalk presentations and exhibition space showcasing more than 1,000 students, culminating in a Gala Awards show — don't appear to be worrying about something as boring as clothes. For the most part, these young hopefuls are content to sell an idea, a mood, a look.

The cult of the fashion stylist is to blame. The stylists (a phenomenon which emerged during the style-obsessed 1980s) can flaunt their imagination on the pages of glossy magazines and even on the catwalks when employed by international designers to give their collections that certain look. A stylist can take a dress, turn it inside out, team it with a hat by Philip Treacy and shoes by Manolo Blahnik and call it cutting edge. They can also take an exquisite gown by a couturier and make it look cheap and nasty. All in the name of fashion. The designer must hold that thought, ponder it and file it away under "indulgent".

Being a designer is hard work: it requires a great amount of training and the acquisition of many skills, not least business acumen and self-restraint.

A large number of the students who showed during the week appear to be little more than frustrated stylists — for them the look is everything. Fine if they are happy to relinquish the title, and status, of designer, but why waste so much time, energy and money giving them the opportunity to do so on a catwalk?

There is another, more worrying problem. Nouveau tailoring appears to involve little knowledge and few skills. Many of the collections featured tortured fabric twisted into hysterical costume dramas or scary sci-fi designs.

The students should be encouraged to look at the body (through classes in life drawing). They should also be compelled to study both historical designers and examine the work of contemporary designers — and not just the trendy few. Too many



KAREN PHELPS: pretty party dresses given a spooky edge



MARIA OSTROPOLSKI: carefully co-ordinated tailoring

bastardised versions of the clothes by Brit brat-pack designers Alexander McQueen, Hussein Chalayan and Owen Gaster appeared over and over again. Sad.

What is wrong with fashion education if it allows these students merrily to go on copying the work of existing designers with seam for seam precision? There must surely be a moment during their courses when the educators have the opportunity to point out this bad case of déjà vu. These young people should be encouraged to become individuals with fresh ideas which genuinely challenge rather than being content to be a second-rate McQueen. Even McQueen agrees.

There is some good news. Excitement was provided by those students who chose to design something new for men to wear. Perhaps the confines of the discipline provide a framework within which the fledgling designers

can work, while still giving them something to kick against. Menswear is primarily a package of components — the jacket, the shirt, a pair of trousers. It is then the importance of the cut, colour, and choice of fabric which can

make or break a garment. Detail counts.

Those students who really stood out kept it simple. They identified a market, created something to suit their own particular taste and style, and cleverly packaged it within an

inch of manufacture. All they need now is for some canny businessman to approach them with a cheque book and sign on the dotted line.

A nice surprise at the Royal College of Art show was a glimmer of hope for the future:

the collection of milliner Pip Hackett was dressed by first-year student Karsten Fielitz, who also won the Lagerfeld Prize with an elegant satin dress. Fielitz is a name to watch. Something to look forward to next year, I guess.



JOSEPH GRIMES: colourful cuts are Miami nice



NIC ROOME: skinny lounge lizard looks



ANDREW MOORE: fashion's latest big scorer



TOMEK SOWACKI: clean lines



PETER HAWKINGS: future touch



KARSTEN FIELITZ: tomorrow person

Photographs by CHRIS MOORE

SIMPLY THE BEST

MENSWEAR

□ **ANDREW MOORE**, Middlesex University. (Bhs Menswear Award winner). Football crazy. Colour-blocked suits, matched trousers with "go-faster" stripes and V-neck slipover tops. Moore is definitely Man of The Match.

□ **ANDREW IBI**, Middlesex University. (Bhs Collection of the Year). Exquisitely tailored sombre suits in black, navy and grey, stolen from the wardrobe of Malcolm X.

□ **TOMEK SOWACKI**, Ravensbourne College. Added creamy fake fur collars on boxy coats worn over simply constructed tops. A touch of the future.

□ **NIC ROOME**, Royal College of Art. Showed an ultra-slim silhouette with some of the best shirts and sweaters, featuring lizard logos and swimming pool file checks.

□ **JOSEPH GRIMES**, Royal College of Art. Offered a brightly coloured, slick look reminiscent of the heroes of *Miami Vice*.

□ **RICHARD CAPSTICK**, Central Saint Martins. Gave a fresh look to blazers, wide trousers and pull-on polo tops in dusty pastels and washed-out denim. Bad taste makes good.

□ **PETER HAWKINGS**, Middlesex University. Used maps as prints and lacquered paper for shirts and jackets. Bright and decidedly bold.

□ **KAREN PHELPS**, University of Northumbria (Bhs Womenswear Award winner). Used spooky china-doll styling for a range of delicate dresses in pale chiffon and dulled satin. Ruffles, lace and Tibetan fur. Little jackets featured fur collars.

□ **MARIA OSTROPOLSKI**, University of Westminster. Mixed menswear-inspired tailoring with luxurious looking silk brocade dresses in a beautifully co-ordinated collection.

□ **SARAH WYATT**, Middlesex University. Showed shiny white jersey cut into long-line coats, worn over slimline dresses and flowing trousers.

□ **AMANDA LOUNT**, University of Central Lancashire. Layered chunky oatmeal knitted coats and cardigans over brocade blouses and trousers. Everra sheepskin coat thrown in.

□ **SHARON CHAN**, University of Brighton. Used light layers over dusty taffeta. Dresses feature unexpected slashes and dipping hemlines.

□ **ANDREAS MELBOSTAD**, Royal College of Art. Cleverly cut khaki leather add lemon, lime and cream stretch into a long and lean silhouette.

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The new vulgarity is no joke

Strippagrams are almost a routine fixture at office parties these days, to the delight of the sniggering classes. But who really finds them funny?

I really think it is going a bit far to claim that having a strippagram manacle you to your office desk in full view of your taunting colleagues is to suffer the same trauma as a rape victim, but I concede that the difference is one of degree. It is, however, a crucial difference. Still, I shudder with sympathy for Gail Steele, who is trying to bring a case against her former employers for having organised, as an office joke, a male stripper to handcuff her, blindfold her and humiliate her in public.

My concern here, this time, is not so much whether such cases should be brought or what they say about society or the balance of power between the sexes but, rather, the nature of these ghastly jokes themselves. Not so long ago it would have been inconceivable that a firm of opticians would arrange for a man to perform a striptease in their office, that he would be hired expressly to humiliate someone with lewdness and overbearingly sexual behaviour. Now it's all but routine.

We are all expected to find this funny. But this isn't so much a joke as an act of aggression. True, the two can often be one and the same thing, but that doesn't explain quite why coarseness has become so socially acceptable.

Vulgarity has become the norm. It would be foolish to pretend it is, in itself, anything new. This is, after all, the country of the Kiss-me-quick hat and the saucy seaside postcard. But the new vulgarity is different: it's malicious, it's mean, it wants to embarrass and discomfit. And, quite simply, there's more of it about. I don't mean in the sense that it's no longer just a way people have of letting their hair down in private, between themselves — although that's true — but that it has permeated the whole of society. Vulgarity has never exactly been a class thing: the Hoary Henry at his bunlight is as

uncouth as the lager lout spewing up his vindaloo in the curry house. But now crudity is the preserve of the respectable middle classes, too. And it's everywhere.

Driving behind a Volvo the other day, I noticed a sticker on its rear window which read: "Thank if you had it last night." A billboard poster for an unwired bra has the line: "Who says a woman can't get pleasure from something soft?" It may be impossible to object to this sort of thing without sounding prissy, but that's to the point in itself. Everyone seems happy, eager even, to talk about their most intimate sexual experiences in public now. Not to have the appetite either to listen or to divulge is to show oneself as a sign of repression, and ever since the Sixties people have been afraid of being thought of as inhibited and frigid.

Openness is the great god now, a no-holds-barred honesty the Holy Grail. I am all for openness and honesty, but I cannot see why that sanctions the undignified spectacle of constant self-exposure. To your own self be true, by all means; but somewhere along the line that has been construed as dictating that you should talk freely about your sexual history to anyone who asks, or walk down the streets in your underwear. If you wish to keep private matters private, you are treated as if there were something psychologically suspect about you.

The new vulgarity is about as specious as the new classlessness: it's a phoney stratagem. Both stem from the same misunderstandings. Both are about reducing everything to the lowest common denominator. There's a fake egalitarianism at play here. Distinctions are seen to be bad: lack of distinctions good. Break down those barriers, all barriers, any barriers. But some barriers are desirable. There should be a distinction made between what is private and public. Pretending



The strippagram: Earl Thomas, hired by office colleagues

that such a distinction can only be hypocritical — and that is the claim made — is self-deluding phooey. Vulgarity is one thing: the attempt to ennoble it quite another.

The new vulgarity is often described, with varying degrees of rueful fondness, as laddishness. But laddishness at some level suggests friendliness, even if it is a boisterous, weigh-heighing and frankly rebarbative sort of friendliness. Everyday vulgarity isn't friendly.

There is something odd in thinking that any form of embarrassment is just a good laugh. Take Red Nose Day, and all that. I don't for one instant criticise what is done, the charitable work, the good intentions and the good deeds; but I find myself appalled by the jolly jape-ishness. I'd rather give my bit without having to turn myself into a clown or witness other people doing it.

Vulgarity always carries with it some notion of pretentiousness. The affected "refined" accent, the swags and furbelows of petit bourgeois aspiration — these have customarily been despised as vulgar. But if the old vulgarity was seen as the province of those who vainly wished to appear better than they were, the new vulgarity insists that we must be worse than we are. I do not use worse in a class sense — I don't believe in stations in life or any of that — but

this crude embracing of all that is coarse, undignified, sniggering and prurient is a tremendous admission of bad faith.

It's the sniggering quality that is so very unerving. In the Sixties, people wanted to be open because they felt that the repressiveness of the Fifties, and before, had led to a society of snickerers. Get rid of repression and the age of the *double entendre* would be dead. But it hasn't happened. We are, as a society at any rate, less repressed than we used to be. But if anything the sniggering has increased. Prudence is everywhere: sex is equated as sleaze. Now, one doesn't want to sound all French and precious about this, but there is something spectacularly seamy about the *lavatorial jokiness* of any public discussion about sex.

The tabloid sensibility — which, broadly speaking, is the popular sensibility — is uncouth, and insists that we all be uncouth, or pain of charges of hypocrisy. Mandi Norwood, the editor of *Cosmopolitan*, questioned about the sexual obsessions of women's magazines (recent coverlines: *Girls Who Like Girls*, *The Man Who Teaches Women to Orgasm*, *My Lover Left Me For My Brother*) explains that "voyeurism exists right across the media and people are reacting very positively". The sad truth is, she's right. But there's no point criticising the press and television for reflecting reality: the awful thing for all of us is that that is what reality is like.



The victim: Gail Steele, who was not amused at being manacled to her desk and blindfolded

Norman conquest of Dr Sex

THE Spanish writer and psychologist Elena Ochoa — the "ch" is pronounced as in cheque-book — was introduced to Freud at 13. Twenty years later, she met the much-married Sir Norman Foster and Freud obviously came in handy — Spanish siren and British architect are to wed. Señora Ochoa, like most

Tunku Varadarajan on a British architect and his Spanish siren

Spanish women of today, has dyed blonde hair. Immensely photogenic, she cut a striking dash on television some four years ago when she hosted a programme called *Hablamos*

de Sexo (Let's Talk Sex). A professor of psychology at a Madrid university, blessed with what Spaniards call a *pico de oro* — the gift of the gab, she was quickly dubbed Dr Sex and talked her way each week into the national subconscious. Sir Norman is marrying a rather frank woman. Her programme, ground-breaking for still-puritan Spain, dealt in considerable detail with such matters as orgasms, G-spots, erections, masturbation, impotence, frigidity, sex aids, homosexuality, adolescent sex and sex between pensioners. Señora Ochoa's success was due more to the seriousness with which she addressed these issues than to simple prurience among viewers — although there was doubtless quite a lot of that, too.

This one-woman Spanish "Masters and Johnson" swiftly became a fixture in Spain's countless, glossy *revistas de corazon*, or gossip magazines. They dote on this coquettish intellectual, whose skirts are as short as her doctorate was long. "Her forthcoming marriage to British architect Sir Norman Foster, one of the richest men in the world, will be a civil ceremony in London," cooed one of them earlier this week. The story was accompanied by pictures of Sir Norman and Señora Ochoa (both looking stern after a possible brush with paparazzi) in Granada, "enjoying together the Andalusian city's charm and beauty".

Nearly a quarter of a century younger than Sir Norman, Señora Ochoa has just obtained a divorce from another much older man, the Catalan essayist and bon viveur Luis Racionero, to whom the Spanish press refers, with characteristic exaggeration, as a "philosopher". After his divorce, Señor Racionero told *Hola* magazine that he was "sad and depressed", but that "life goes on". Life goes on for Señora Ochoa, too, presumably in

Britain. Her relationship with Sir Norman now is three years old, and she has lived in London for some time. "I am an anglophile," she confessed to a Spanish reporter recently, relishing every possible connotation of that word.

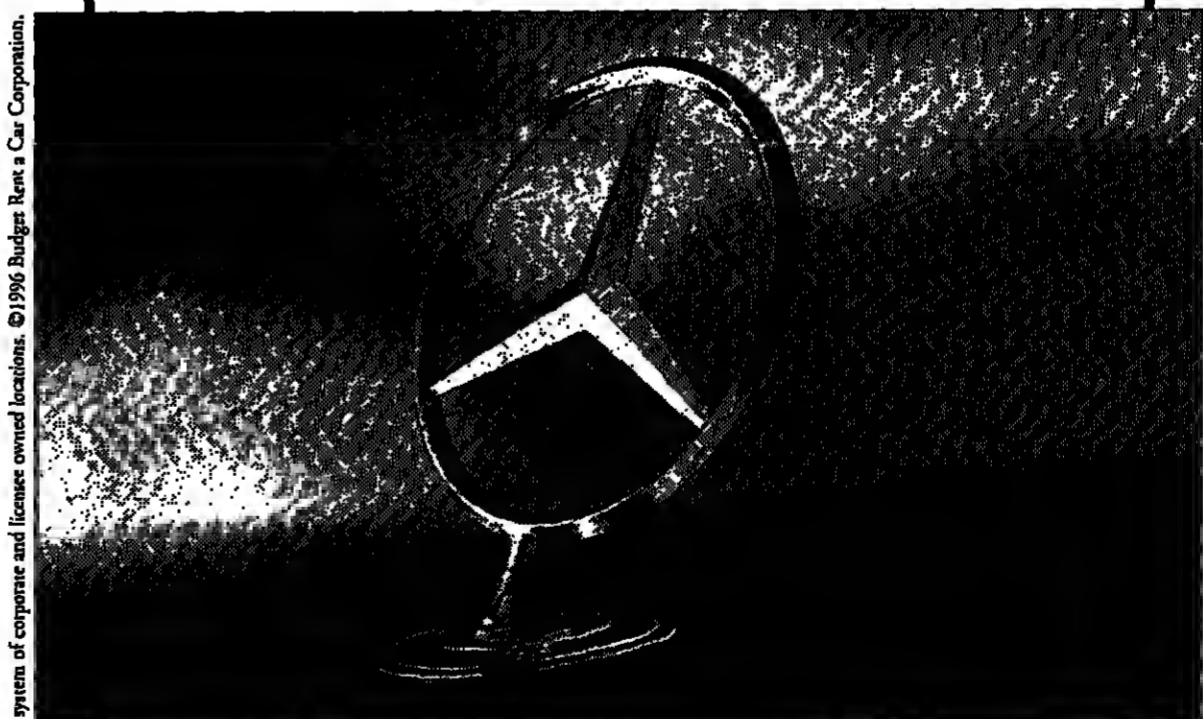
Sir Norman has recent experience of divorce too, having disentangled himself from his second wife, Sabiha, in London last August. Señora Ochoa is as different from "the Begum", as the Pakistani Sabiha is known, as Madrid is from Lahore. She is amiable, for a start, while the Begum was "insufferably grand", to use a phrase directed at her in a 1993 court battle in which she sued HM Customs and Excise for "slander by conduct" and lost.

Señora Ochoa is also a celebrity in Spain — as Sir Norman is, after a fashion, in Britain — and this should bring an important balance to a high-profile union. She writes a regular column in the Sunday colour magazine of *El País*, the Madrid daily, although she is often guilty of froth-mongering. Her last column began: "One of the stories I am going to tell you consists, in telegraphic terms, in the following gentleman

rich in success — private and public — with stupendous woman for wife..." On another occasion, she penned this fulsome line in a love story: "We kept our secret, caressing it as we would some golden velvet. The only external sign that could give us away was the mother-of-pearl seashell that you gave me, and with which you swore eternal love."

BUT Señora Ochoa has always combined these excursions into well paid pap with her more scholarly pursuits as a psychologist. She has written extensively on schizophrenia and is working on a book on Alzheimer's disease. As fortune would have it, one of her academic papers took her to Cambridge, where she first met Sir Norman. After that, it was *adios* Sigmund Freud, welcome Frank Lloyd Wright. There's nothing like a good British building to turn a Spanish woman on.

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PUSH-ME-PULL-YOU

Blair is facing two ways on Europe

Tony Blair's speech to German businessmen yesterday was one of which the Prime Minister himself might have been proud. No expression of support for a policy was complete without a countervailing warning. Clichés ran amok: Britain should be "succeeding in Europe not failing, winning not losing, walking tall, not skulking on the sidelines". By the end, observers could not decide whether the Labour leader was leaning towards enthusiasm or scepticism. Like John Major, Mr Blair is proving adept at telling each side what it wants to hear.

On the one hand, we are told, "Britain should take its proper place as a leader in Europe" rather than being "reduced to the margins of influence". On the other, "you should not expect us to agree with everything that comes from Bonn or Brussels". On the one hand, "we do not seek to merge our national identities into an international superstate"; on the other, "we seek a European and global framework for key decisions that affect all our lives".

Mr Blair may be right in judging that mood music is important. It is easy to forget the relief with which Mr Major was first greeted, by Helmut Kohl in particular, when he assured his EU partners that Britain wanted to be "at the heart of Europe". But the reality of Britain's position soon caught up with Mr Major, as it will with Mr Blair.

It was on the single currency that the Labour leader was most ambiguous yesterday. In principle, he said, it could have benefits. He would judge the decision on economic grounds. But his definition of what constituted "economic" seemed to include much that is political and constitutional. He warned that, if the economies linked by a single currency were not "genuinely and sustainably convergent", there would be a risk to weaker economies and especially to jobs. "The result could be a

reaction amongst the people that could be severe, nationalist in tone and dangerous." This is precisely the reaction that makes us so wary of a single currency, whether or not Britain is a member. Mr Blair must know that the chances of Europe's economies becoming "genuinely and sustainably convergent" in the short, medium or even long term are remote. The dangers of which he speaks are, therefore, very real. And they are not merely economic. Once governments lose the tools to remedy such economic suffering, voters start to become restless. When they realise that the Opposition too is similarly impotent, they begin to wonder what use is their vote. Democracy is thus made vulnerable. Sovereignty is not a dry, constitutional matter: the loss of it leads to riots in the streets.

Conservative Party spokesmen may claim an important difference between Mr Blair and Mr Major is that, while both are aware of these dangers, Mr Major is the only one prepared to act on them. Mr Blair yesterday restricted himself to pointing them out; he then went on to promise that he would not try to obstruct EMU — indeed he would "work closely with Germany and others to help make sure EMU is given the best chance of working". Mr Major is also, however, not attempting to stop the project. Both can see it ending in tears; both are prepared to watch the tears being shed.

If the rise of nationalism on the Continent were a problem merely for those nations concerned, this might be a legitimate policy. But Britain too has an interest in the continuation of democracy and peace in Europe. The EU was set up precisely to achieve peace and prosperity. Its current direction imperils this. If Britain can rightly be accused of being on the sidelines, it is not because this country is not joining EMU, but because it is not opposing it strongly enough.

RUSSIA'S MR CLEAN

An unlikely champion of modernisation

Yesterday, a beaming Boris Yeltsin appointed Aleksandr Lebed National Security Adviser and head of his powerful Security Council. The Russian President's immediate aim is to win over as many as possible of the 11 million voters who supported the gruff former general in the first round of the presidential elections. But by Mr Yeltsin's account, this is no mere tactical alliance against Gennadi Zyuganov, but "a union between two politicians, two manifestos". To underline the point that this is a marriage built to last, he told Russia's voters that he saw Mr Lebed as his probable successor.

Mr Lebed won 15 per cent of the first-round vote by convincing Russians that he was the man of iron resolve needed to restore *porядok* — order — by rooting out corruption and organised crime. Mr Yeltsin has smoothly placed this poisoned chalice in his hands. He is expected to be given effective control of the "power ministries" — Defence, the Interior and the Secret Services. It is an astonishing leap up the ladder for a 46-year-old political novice who has twice failed to forge an effective "third force" party of his own and who resigned his commission less than a year ago.

That resignation followed his defeat in a bitter public row with General Pavel Grachev, the unpopular Defence Minister, over the decision to downgrade and ultimately to withdraw the 14th Russian Army which he commanded in Moldavia. Most Russians, however, credited him with preventing civil war there. General Grachev's resignation yesterday is further confirmation that Mr Yeltsin has changed the political guard.

Mr Lebed hardly comes across as a liberal. Blunt to a fault, he speaks the language of the mailed fist. Although he insists that a free press is essential to the democratic process and supports jury trials, he has said that Russia is still so chaotic that "we are going to have to use authoritarian methods to force

people to build democracy". His current role model is de Gaulle, but not long ago — mainly because he admires the transformation of the Chilean economy — it was General Pinochet.

Mr Lebed may not, however, be as alarming as this might seem. First, he is no friend of the all-powerful State, which he describes as "a wolf gnawing at the economy". Instead, he calls for its role to be cut back to core responsibilities, defence, law and order ("to protect the fruits of the labour of law-abiding citizens from the whims of officials and from gangsters' extortion") and essential social and educational services. On investment laws, Russia's chaotic tax system and cutting the bureaucracy's size and powers, he is a moderniser. He blames the failures of the market economy in Russia on "the bandit State".

If Mr Yeltsin wins in the second round, Mr Lebed will be judged above all by his success in his primary task, the offensive against corruption and crime on which he insists that "Russia's survival as a state" depends. His legislative plans include rules to make state budgets more transparent, stiff penalties for bribe-taking, compulsory disclosure by state officials of their own and their families' income; greater protection for judges and law-enforcement agencies; and an independent body to fight organised crime which would co-operate with Interpol and foreign intelligence services.

This would amount to a declaration of war on the entire Russian *nomenklatura*. It would encounter powerful resistance. That is precisely why Mr Yeltsin has ducked these reforms so far. As Mr Lebed himself has remarked, "it's not the generals who are running for election you need to worry about, it's the generals who aren't". If his popularity does swing enough votes to win Mr Yeltsin a second term, that will only be the start of Russia's next battle against the rot within. It will be the toughest yet.

FIRE MOUNTAINS

Bold Italians face dark volcanic forces

Even sophisticated 20th-century man draws back at times from tempting the gods. To drill boreholes into the side of Vesuvius and detonate up to 1,700lb of explosives deep inside the volcano must strike anyone as a foolish provocation. Paolo Gasparini, one of the volcanologists attempting to map the mountain's churning centre, maintains that their experiments will administer no more than a "light knock" to the lowering volcano. But what if such hubris provoked a cataclysm? The vengeful deities that have periodically rained terror and lava down the mountain's fertile slopes may not take kindly to mortal interference.

There are 1,500 active volcanoes around the world. The spirits that fire their magma up from the underworld seem, at the end of the 20th century, to be especially angry. Spectacular clouds now rise from Mount Ruapehu in New Zealand. On the other side of the Pacific, the smoking volcano on Montserrat threatens to blow at any time, keeping the tiny colony's inhabitants in refugee camps for months. The world is only now recovering from the explosive eruption in 1991 of Mount Pinatubo, whose 20 million tonnes of ash darkened the skies, reflecting sunlight and cooling the world's climate by 0.5°C over three years.

From Mount St Helens in America to

Mount Vulcan in New Guinea and Mount Unzen in Japan, volcanoes long dormant are erupting into furious life. New islands are rising from the foaming seas around Iceland as lava spews from the deep. Mammoth Mountain, in eastern California, is emitting dangerous levels of carbon dioxide. Old craters in the Alban Hills near Frascati are waking from a 20,000-year sleep, and the spongy ground has risen a foot in 15 years.

Volcanologists have rarely been so excited or so active. The first reported initiate of their mystery was Empedocles, who, wanting to be regarded as a Greek god, tried to disappear in Mount Etna: the lava spewed out his sandal to show him both mortal and a comrade. Other ancient took a more step-by-step approach. Pliny the Elder took a step too far and was killed in his quest to discover what was happening on Vesuvius; Pliny the Younger, keeping a safer distance, left us an invaluable eyewitness account of the most famous eruption in history.

The fascination with these occasional roars from the globe's fiery core has drawn scientists to the lip of disaster ever since. Maurice and Katia Krafft, the celebrated French volcanologists, paid for their obsession with their lives in 1991. Volcanoes are unpredictable beasts. The Italians should think again.

BSE and animal feed in France

From the Editor of Country Life

Sir, In attacking Britain for allowing the export of infected animal feed after 1989 (report, June 14), French politicians have inadvertently highlighted the hitherto little-remarked scandal of France's own policy on BSE.

If the disease is transmitted through feed, and large quantities of contaminated feed were imported into France, it is inconceivable that France can only have suffered the 15 or so cases of BSE that have been officially notified. Further, the policy of slaughtering whole herds whenever a single case is reported clearly does not prevent infected meat from entering the food chain, since the long incubation period means that cattle from these herds may be sold and slaughtered before symptoms appear.

Whenever *Country Life* has spoken to the French Ministry of Agriculture they have been emphatic — indeed heated — in their assertion that there is no BSE in France. Consequently, they do not take any precautions against it. The brains, spinal column and other specified offals are not removed from slaughtered animals, as they are here.

If the French really do believe that BSE is a threat to humans, they have shown appalling insouciance about the danger posed by their own beef. It is hardly surprising that German consumers' confidence in beef has fallen. As a prominent German manufacturer of organic products told me, Germany has open borders with the other European nations and the German consumer is not convinced of the honesty of French farmers or the diligence of the French authorities.

It seems extraordinary that the European Union is not protecting its citizens by insisting on the removal of specified offals from cattle slaughtered in France. Until it does, surely the British Government should ban the import of pâté and other French products containing beef, on the grounds that France's safety measures do not match those in this country.

Structural weakness in Birt's BBC

From Lady Anglesey

Sir, William Rees-Mogg writes of "Birt's gamble on a commercial BBC" (June 10). He suspects it may bring to an end the BBC as we have known it. As a past member of the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the Board of the British Council, and as a past Chairman of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, I strongly share his concern, particularly about the threat to high standards in regional broadcasting, and in the World Service and on radio.

The licence fee has been supported by all parties and the BBC has rightly been independent of government. I admire much that John Birt has achieved, but I fear the possible long-term "political" as well as commercial consequences of this gamble.

Yours sincerely,
SHIRLEY ANGLESEY,
Plas Newydd,
Llanfairpwll, Isle of Anglesey,
June 10.

Asylum appeals in cases of torture

From Professor Sir Richard Doll, CH, FRS, and others

Sir, We are writing to draw attention to the treatment of torture victims who have fled their own countries to seek sanctuary in the United Kingdom. Making decisions on asylum cases is unquestionably difficult. Documentary evidence is hard to come by in totalitarian regimes, and errors in decisions are bound to have desperate and sometimes fatal consequences. There is a need for a measure of the benefit of the doubt on evidence, a sympathetic hearing and good information on conditions in their country of origin.

On June 19 the Nigerian pro-democracy activist Abiodun Igbinidu will have been held in custody in this country for a year. His claim to be a torture victim was rejected by the Home Secretary in August last year. In an unsuccessful appeal the special adjudicator wrote: "I do not accept his account of having been arrested on various occasions and having been tortured. There is no independent medical evidence to support that claim."

In his case the procedures and criteria for handling and determining refugee status under the 1951 United Nations Convention and its 1967 Protocol were not followed, and no expert medical advice was obtained.

By a fortunate meeting of disparate medical and journalistic interests in Oxford it was subsequently possible to secure documentary, surgical and psychiatric evidence of torture and its psychological and traumatic sequelae. Mr Igbinidu's deportation has been deferred and the Home Office is re-considering his case, but in the meantime he remains at Campfield House Detention Centre, near Oxford. That this is an exceptional case adds to the concern for the others who lack such investigative opportunity.

It is clear that the number of economic asylum seekers is legions and strong regulation is required. However there is a long-standing and proud British record of help for those fleeing from persecution and torture. None of us would want to see this lost. We believe the case of Mr Igbinidu illustrates that exemplary consideration should be given to asylum seekers who claim to have experienced torture, and most importantly a proper medical examination by specialists.

The Paestum Diver

From Mr Michael Moynihan

Sir, I might here not be a perfectly simple explanation for the Paestum Diver, the only painting from the Golden Age of Greek art to have come to light (Arts, June 11).

During a holiday in 1988 at Paestum, southern Italy, about which I later wrote a travel article, we were shown, among the majestic ruins, what remained of the Gymnasium where Greek youths had "kept warrior-fit, most of it a swimming pool with a zig-zag labyrinth of tunnels at one end to provide a submerged obstacle course".

About the closely guarded Tomb of the Diver in the Museum, dated 475 BC, which had been discovered by farm-workers digging near the railway station in 1968, I wrote:

Round the sides are depicted scenes from a gay (in its modern connotation) funeral banquet while under the lid is a naked youth diving into a pool. "An allegory of the soul's journey from this life to the next," pontificated the guide. From the tight smile of the diver, I would say it was a lightning sketch of the bane lamented, showing off in the Gymnasium swimming-pool.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MOYNIHAN,
Nuthatch, Fletcher Close,
North Mundham, Chichester,
West Sussex,
June 13.

Legal complaints

From Mr Tony Biles

Sir, The Legal Services Ombudsman is reported (June 13) as saying that if there is no improvement in the level of dissatisfaction with lawyers the Government may eventually set up an independent system to handle complaints against solicitors.

It is now ten years since the Solicitors Complaints Bureau was established. The time for internal change and tinkering with a system which is widely acknowledged to be defective has passed. An independent system should be set up now.

Yours faithfully,
TONY BILES,
(Vice-Chairman),
Casia — Complaints against solicitors: action for independent adjudication,
PO Box 305,
Guildford, Surrey GU2 5WE,
June 17.

Lottery grants

From Mr R. F. Bond

Sir, The charity I represent has existed for over 100 years in order to offer what the National Lottery calls "disadvantaged young people a realistic chance to become economically self-sufficient through providing employment opportunities, training and skills development". Our charity, a school, requires no government grants and fees are paid on behalf of the youngsters who come to it.

We have a one-off requirement for capital to expand our facilities. Seventy per cent is available from reserves and two years of fund-raising. We asked the lottery for the balance so that we could make a start in July to meet a known surge in demand next September. Once the development is complete we would again be financially self-sufficient. Our application was

British architecture

From Mr Terry Farrell

Sir, We are going through a really creative and vibrant phase of British architecture. However, I am concerned that the lottery has encouraged a centralisation of taste control, as Marcus Binney ("Have a prize, old boy", Arts, June 10) has recognised.

The last fine architectural taste was in such a few hands as in the booming 1950s and 1960s, when so much of that which was built reflected the view that leading architects knew what was good for everyone else. There is certainly an element of anti-populism and a real disrespect for pluralism in the leading architectural institutions of today.

I would be in favour of those who buy the lottery tickets and pay for the new buildings having much more say in what is built with their money.

My hunch is that their taste would be very different from the narrow groups appointed to choose on their behalf.

Yours,
TERRY FARRELL,
Terry Farrell & Partners,
17 Hanon Street, NW8,
June 13.

Millennium wheel

From Mr L. P. Bayly

Sir, A Ferris wheel in London to mark the millennium (letters, April 24; May 27; June 4, 14) is entirely appropriate. It is the perfect symbol for a nation which has no idea where it's going.

Yours faithfully,
L. P. BAYLY,
79 Gloucester Street,
Winchcombe, Gloucestershire,
June 15.

Not suited

From Miss Jacqui Harrison

Sir, Mr Edward Armitage (letter, June 18) is obviously blissfully ignorant of popular culture, but if he really wants to be enlightened on the subject of the shellsuit, I can inform him: it is shaped like a tracksuit, is usually of iridescent material in lurid colours and, if held to the ear, projects the sounds of a Romford boat fair.

Yours faithfully,
JACQUI HARRISON,
Beech Cottage,
11 Witting Street, Thaxted, Essex,
June 18.

Baling out

From Mr Charles F. Whitelock

Sir, Air Vice-Marshal Price and Mr Fenwick (letters, June 4, 8) were fortunate in being allowed to carry with them rewards for their safe return in the event of capture.

Flying in the Middle East — Iraq, the Gulf and Oman — in the 1930s we carried only a card with a message in Arabic, Kurdish and Turkish promising untold (to us) riches for our return, preferably intact, to the authorities should we be found after a forced landing.

We were not given a translation of the message, doubtless because it could have been bad for our morale to learn the going rate per survivor. Unkind rumour had it that it was of the order of five shillings.

I still have my card. The temptation to obtain a translation is exceeded only by my fear of learning how little I might have been worth some sixty years ago.

Yours faithfully,
C. F. WHITELOCK,
(Sqn Ldr, RAF (ret'd)),
18 Walpole Court,
Puddletown, Dorset,
June 9.

Baling out

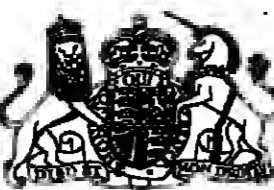
From Mr Charles F. Whitelock

Sir, The reproduction of the Paestum Diver this morning and your account gave me most welcome information. I have some botanical knowledge and I straightaway thought of the "trees" depicted in the painting as red seaweeds, abundant and feathery in warm shallow waters.

Yours etc.,
J. M. VENN,
Quin Cottage,
Shillingstone, Blandford, Dorset,
June 11.

Business letters, page 31

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE June 18: The Queen, with the Duke of Edinburgh, honoured Asog Races with her presence today.

Requiem Mass

Lady Edith Powell Father Charles Dike was the principal celebrant at a requiem Mass for Lady Edith Sybil Powell held on Monday in Brompton Oratory.



Mother Teresa of Calcutta and two of her nuns yesterday with the Most Rev John Aloysius Ward, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cardiff, when she opened the 56thth convent for her order, the Missionaries of Charity, at Swansea.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, will attend a Prudential Youth Action awards ceremony at the Prudential Corporation, 142 Holborn Bars, E.C.1, at 10.30.

Luncheons

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce Mr Royce Frith, QC, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at Trinity House.

Reception

Institute of Education Sir Clive Whitmore, Chairman of the Council of the Institute of Education, London University, and Professor Peter Mortimore, Director, were the hosts yesterday at a reception held at the Institute for guests from the field of education.

Dinners

United & Cecil Club Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, was the chairman at a dinner of the United & Cecil Club last night at the House of Commons.

Lord Luke

The thanksgiving service for the life and work of Lord Luke, of Pavenham will be held at 3.00pm on Monday, June 24, at St Lawrence Jewry, near Guildhall in the City of London.

Peter Glenville

A Requiem Mass for Peter Glenville, who died recently in New York, will be said in the Little Oratory, Brompton Oratory, London SW3 at midday on June 26.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James VI of Scotland, reigned 1567-1625, afterwards as James I of England and Ireland, reigned 1603-25, Edinburgh, 1566; Thomas Fuller, preacher and scholar, Aldwinckle, Northamptonshire, 1608.

Cranbrook School

Scholarship Awards 1996 We are pleased to announce the following Scholarship Awards for 1996 entry:

Major Academic Awards Rory Allen, Wellesley House School; Science: Stephen Ashley, Dulwich Preparatory School; Cranbrook - Mathematics & Science: Henrietta Denney, Bodebury - General; James Shooter, Holmwood House School - General; Benjamin Smith, Wellington School - General; Holly Wakefield, Vinhall - General.

Minor Academic Awards

Oliver Crisp, Marlborough House - General; Dudley Angley School - General. Music Awards Carly Bryant, Angley School - piano; Nadia Gliden, Dulwich Preparatory School, Cranbrook - flute; Andrew Radford, Dulwich Preparatory School, Cranbrook - violin.

Company of Chartered Surveyors

The following have been elected Members of the Company of Chartered Surveyors for the ensuing year: Master, Mr David H. Pepper; Senior Warden, Mr Robin S. Broadhurst; Junior Warden, Mr Stuart Hibberdin.

Church appointments

The Rev Mark Boney, Vicar, Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, to be Rector, Great Berkhamstead (St Alban).

The Rev Nigel Genders, Assistant Curate, Christ Church, New Malden (Southwark), to be Assistant Curate, Christ Church, Cockfosters (London).

The Rev Michael Haichett, Vicar, St Peter's, Great Totham, to be also Rector, Dean of Witham (Chelmsford).

London Lighthouse

The Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea attended a service of thanksgiving and dedication held yesterday in Westminster Abbey to mark the tenth anniversary of the founding of London Lighthouse.

Birthdays today

Mr Robert Alnsworth, MP, 44; Sir Michael Alexander, diplomat, 60; Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel laureate, 51; Mr Jeremy Bates, tennis player, 34; Sir Robin Brook, former President, Association of Chambers of Commerce of EEC, 58; Dr Neil Chalmers, director, Natural History Museum, 54; Sir Terence Clark, diplomat, 62; Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Duffell, 51; Miss Eira Evans, Headmistress, King Edward VI High School, Birmingham, 51.

Appointment

John Forester Stuart to be secretary-general of the Scottish Episcopal Church from October in succession to John Simpson.

National Art Collections Fund

The Annual General Meeting of the National Art Collections Fund was held at the Royal Geographical Society, London, on Tuesday, June 18. The proceedings included reports from Sir Nicholas Goodison, Chairman, Mr David Barrie, Director, and Mr Rupert Hambro, Treasurer.

Legal appointment

The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of His Honour Judge Christopher John Sumner to be a Justice of the High Court. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will assign Judge Sumner to the Family Division.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon Ralph Ashton and Miss O.S. Warrington The engagement is announced between Ralph, elder son of Lord and Lady Clitheroe, of Downham Hall, Lancashire, and Olivia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Warrington, of Low Burton Hall, Masham, North Yorkshire.

Mr T.L.C. Piper and Mrs J.M.B. de Salis The engagement is announced between Luke, eldest son of the late Mr Edward Piper and of Mrs Edward Piper, of The Old Laundry, Marston Bigot, near Frome, Somerset, and Julia, daughter of Count and Countess Charles de Salis, of Yarlwood House, near Wincanton, Somerset.

Mr C.P.N. Plunkett-Checkeman and Miss P. Farrington The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Plunkett-Checkeman, of Remenham, Oxfordshire, and Polly, daughter of Mr Peter Farrington, of Hinton, Wiltshire, and Mrs Margaret Farrington, of Seer Green, Buckinghamshire.

Mr C.J.M. Shabi and Miss C.L. Robertson The engagement is announced between Cyrus, son of Dr and Mrs F.A. Shabi, of Tattenhall, Cheshire, and Clare Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Robertson, of Canterbury, Kent.

Marriage

Mr T.M.D. Biagham and Miss S.J. van den Bergh The marriage took place on Saturday, June 15, at St George's, Sicily, Kent, of Mr Tom Biagham and Miss Sophie van den Bergh.

Royal College of Physicians

The following overseas professors have become fellows of the Royal College of Physicians: Professor Henry Burger, director of Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, Adelaide, Australia; Professor Michael Colebatch, professor of endocrinology at the Carol Davila Medical School in Bucharest, Romania; Professor Alan Hoffman, director of endocrinology and professor of medicine in the Department of Medicine at the University of California, San Diego; Professor Carlos J. G. Machado, professor of paediatrics at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, Birmingham, Alabama; and Professor John Jontangui, professor of respiratory medicine at the Medical School of Athens University.

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DEATHS

BANKS - Isobel Mary Bousell (Jane) died suddenly, peacefully at home on 17th June 1996. Much loved wife and mother of Roger and Susan. Burial at 11.15 am on 21st June. No flowers please.

DEATHS

BONNER - Colin on 14th June 1996 at home with his wife Sarah and his sons Mark and Paul. Colin was a deeply loved. Date of Memorial Service to be announced.

DEATHS

BURTON - On Sunday June 16th peacefully in Cromer and District Hospital. Her late husband, Peter, a daughter, Margaret, Katherine, a son, a sister for John.

DEATHS

HAYWOOD - Mary Colander (née McKenzie) peacefully after a short illness, 15th June 1996 at home. Much loved wife and mother of Michael and Gillian. Burial at 11.30 am on 21st June. No flowers please.

DEATHS

HAYNES - Peacefully on June 17th Gordon Frank Hayes D.P.C. aged 97, beloved husband of the late Mrs. Mary Hayes (nee Gledhill). Burial at 11.30 am on 21st June. No flowers please.

DEATHS

WACKERIE - Elizabeth (née Mackenzie) of Collyer, 17th June 1996. Much loved wife and mother of John, a daughter, a son, a sister for John.

DEATHS

WOOD - (Gladys) (nee) Christina on June 14th, 1996. Much loved wife and mother of John, a daughter, a son, a sister for John.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

LAYE - A Thanksgiving Service for Mrs Evelyn Laye O.B.E. will be held on Sunday June 24th at 11.30 am at St Paul's Church, 21, St Paul's Church, Garden, WC2E 9EP. Enquiries (0181) 799-9277.

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THE LISTENER

Why can't we have a Bart?

At last, The Simpsons are moving to their natural home, the BBC. The Daily Mail is appalled. It sees the purchase of this animated sitcom as another sign of the BBC's abnegation of programme quality and family values.

I've hesitated to praise the brilliance of The Simpsons because it has been available only to the minority of viewers who take Sky One, a channel offered by BSkyB, partially owned by the owners of The Times, who also own the makers of the programme.

shapeless new America, a land of family therapy, street crime, happy-clappy religion, aimless schools, multiculturalism, giant discount stores (Madge concedes that the local giant warehouse offers a very good price for 14lb of nuts), and aggressive geriatrics.

Where they watch themselves, The Simpsons, launched in 1990 and winner of two Emmy awards, is a prime text for university courses in media and popular culture. It sassily displays all the fashionable theories like "self-referentiality".



BRENDA MADDOX

The other week showed young Bart Simpson fleeing some irate neighbours. As they beat upon the doors of the Simpsons' all-American little house, the lad desperately dials the police. He gets a recorded message: "You have reached the Springfield Police Station."

To the Daily Mail, The Simpsons are "a dysfunctional family of misfits whose daily exploits are the opposite of the American dream and self-improvement ethos".

But neither ever gets away with much. The women of the programme rope them back to the American straight and narrow.

The Simpsons are just what the Daily Mail loves: a monogamous, faithful, married couple, who love their three children and do not know what has happened to the world they grew up in.

Plantin lives on, for now

MARCUS PLANTIN, the ITV network controller, is reaching the end of his fourth year in the job. And to celebrate, he appears to have seen off another attempt to oust him.

However, not everything has gone Mr Plantin's way. Inquiries about his future prompted a resounding endorsement of his capabilities from Roger Lawton, the chairman of ITV's Broadcast Board.

On the Boyle

PREPARE for an act of God at BBC Radio 4. Radio Scotland's engaging boss James Boyle, who once dismissed speculation that he might land a network radio controllership as being "akin to the local priest becoming Pope", is now front-runner to replace Michael Green as Controller of Radio 4.

Not to be confused with the Glasgow gangland ex-con Jimmy Boyle, the Beeb's Mr Boyle is credited with turning around the fortunes of Radio Scotland prior to its becoming Radio Station of the Year in 1994.

Among his many qualities, colleagues unanimously stress his "niceness". "He has made few, if any, enemies within the BBC," according to one. Miraculous, indeed.

SENIOR BBC executives who have been led to believe they still have a job in the wake of the corporation's massive restructuring are now wrangling over office space.



Bob Geldof and Paula Yates: separate islands?



Bob's new game

BOB GELDOLF's television production company, Planet 24, is understood to be looking for a tropical island to buy off the Mexican coast for the filming of its new game show, Survive, which has been described as Gladiators meets Lord of the Flies.

Geldof's co-owners of Planet 24, Charlie Parsons and Waheed Alli, have something of a reputation for designing shows around their favourite

locations - but do they really need to go to the expense of buying an island?

The company line, apparently, is that it will be more cost-effective to own the atoll outright since it is planning to make several editions of the programme for the international market.

VIEWERS who have noticed a slight edginess in the manner of the BBC newscaster Peter Sissons need not worry. A devoted sports fan, Sissons is determined not to miss a single minute of Euro 96, and has installed a tiny hidden television monitor on his studio "desk".

One year on, the Saatchis ride high



Maurice Saatchi: rapid growth

M&C SAATCHI, the ad agency formed by Maurice and Charles Saatchi after Maurice's dramatic ousting from Charlotte Street, officially celebrates its first anniversary today.

The agency's year began rather bumpily, with cramped offices and ugly squabbles, but it has bagged about £150 million worth of business, opened up branches in seven locations worldwide and begun producing the sort of startling creative work for which the old shop is famed.

It has constructed a client list which is the stuff of any agency chief's dreams - names such as BA, Silk Cut, Mirror Group, Dixons, ITV ... Oh, and the Tory party.

"If we'd done a business plan, which we didn't, we would have had a better year," says Nick Hurrell, chief executive, keen to emphasise that "over half" the shop's business is "non-Saatchi and Saatchi".

Maybe the next 12 months will bring

ADVERTISING

what the industry has been eagerly awaiting - a public, full-blown pitch between M&C and Saatchis itself.

The debate over the use of children in advertising rages on in the wake of Bates Dorland's Safeway's commercial featuring Harry "chatting up" Molly in the supermarket.

As many as 25 MPs, including four Labour frontbenchers and one Tory backbencher, have already signed an early day motion proposed by Tony Banks deploring the campaign. Now Banks is upping the ante.

And if that fails, he is fired up enough to pursue the issue directly with the Independent Television Commission. He is evidently galvanised in

his stand by a bulging postbag of letters from the public.

MISCHIEVOUS rumours have begun to circulate that the Daily Express could be on the brink of reviewing its advertising business. Key meetings have been taking place between Richard Addis, the Editor, Stephen Grabiner, executive director of newspapers at United News & Media, and Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News & Media.

The account has been housed at the rather safe and comfortable DMB&B for a decade, but the Express is understood to be flirting with the idea of a younger, more alternative boutique.

Addis was spotted enjoying Pimm's at the Stella Artois tennis championships last Friday, courtesy of top ten shop Lowe Howard-Spink, which, by happy chance, has a significant gap on its client list for a nice, chunky newspaper account.

BELINDA ARCHER

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Private eyes focus on C4

Many people in the industry believe that selling off Channel 4 would curb its instinct for innovation

Reports earlier this week that John Major is considering privatising Channel 4 sounded very much like sabre-ranting. What better way, in these pre-election campaign days, to appease Tory rightwingers than to threaten to silence the man they call the nation's "pornographer in chief", the channel's chief executive Michael Grade, by subjecting him to market forces?

By mid-morning yesterday, however, it was becoming clear that Downing Street is indeed giving thought to the issue. Although the



ALEXANDRA FREAN

Heritage Minister, Iain Sprouat, told the Commons that the Government would not back an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill — proposed by the Tory backbencher David Shaw and calling for Channel 4 to be sold off — he did not rule out the possibility of returning to the issue at a later date. Downing Street sources have done everything to encourage the view that selling off Channel 4 may feature in the next Conservative general election manifesto.

Mr Shaw, who withdrew his amendment, says that he was not motivated by disgust at the bad language and sexual content of some of the channel's programming. Indeed, he claims to be an admirer of Mr Grade. What Mr Shaw wants to do is to build on Channel 4's current success.

"My concern is to turn Channel 4 into a global player. The media is a global industry now, and Channel 4 should take its part in the international market. To do this it will need access to the markets to raise capital," he explains, then adds, optimistically: "I have in mind a company that can take on the likes of Time-Warner and Disney." (Channel 4's annual turnover of more than £464 million is peanuts compared with Disney's £7.8 billion revenue.)

There is, in fact, nothing to stop the channel borrowing money now if it wants to because, unlike the BBC, its liabilities do not count towards the public sector borrowing requirement. In 1992, for example, it took out a £75 million loan (now repaid) to help to



Low Grade with his nephew, Michael, who, by highlighting the station's commercial potential, is thought to have brought on the privatisation threat

cover advertising debts and its move to a new building.

Channel 4's supporters counter, anyway, that the best way for it to compete on the world stage is to remain a niche player, commissioning and financing non-mainstream, hand-crafted film and television productions rather than taking on the international media giants that turn out blockbuster films by the yard. It is no accident, they might add, that both *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the most successful British film worldwide ever, and *Trainspotting*, the second highest grossing film in Britain ever (after *Four Weddings*), were both backed by Channel 4.

The other two stock reasons for privatisation — to improve value of the product or service for the consumer and to eradicate inefficiency — do not really apply to Channel 4. At present, the station's job is to plough as much money as possible into programme-making in order to create a high-quality product. With shareholders, its main preoccupation would be cutting programme budgets.

While it could be argued that a few of the channel's executives are superfluous, Channel 4, which has a staff of 550, is probably more efficient than any other British terrestrial television company, with the possible exception of the forthcoming Channel 5.

Any suggestions, incidentally, that making Channel 4 responsible to shareholders would curb its penchant for innovation and controversy and reduce the amount of sex it shows, does not hold up to scrutiny. Last year the Independent Television Commission made 17 interventions against ITV (largely shareholder owned) and 11 against Channel 4.

The spectre of privatisation has been raised periodically throughout the channel's 14-year history, notably during the passage of the 1990 Broadcasting Act. Until 1992 the station only paid corporation tax on its relatively small overseas earnings, and it still pays no money for its licence to broadcast.

These special circumstances have made the channel vulnerable to Treasury types, who believe that selling it off could bring in around £1.5 billion.

But the arguments for and against privatising Channel 4 extend far beyond a mere numbers game. Broadcasters of all hues are unanimous in their belief that privatising the channel would be disastrous for the industry. For a start it would upset the delicate balance that exists between Channel 4, ITV and Channel 5, at a time of mushrooming competition from cable and satellite channels.

Although Channel 4 does compete with ITV in some areas, its unique public service remit, requiring it to cater for alternative and minority interests, means that its schedule is distinctly uncompetitive in others. It has just completed a season of programmes on poverty, and on Saturday it showed four hours of opera from Glyndebourne. *Channel 4 News*, considered by many politicians to be the jewel in the station's crown, is screened at 7pm for one hour and follows a non-populist, heavyweight, political agenda.

A more commercially orientated Channel 4 would also put a tighter

competitive squeeze on BBC2, Britain's other "minority" channel, which would be under greater pressure than ever to boost ratings in order to justify its share of the television licence fee.

Despite their support for keeping Channel 4 in its present state, many in ITV believe that Mr Grade has bought the privatisation threat upon himself. Not only has he succeeded in relentlessly upsetting a handful of vociferous Conservative MPs and right-wing commentators but, more importantly, he recently highlighted the station's immense commercial potential in his successful and high-profile campaign to persuade the Government to alter the "funding formula", which requires Channel 4 to pay tens of millions of pounds of profits to ITV every year. A new formula, proposed in the current Broadcasting Bill, would reduce Channel 4's payments to ITV to zero. The entire broadcasting industry will now be hoping that Channel 4 is as effective in mobilising political opinion against privatisation as it was in winning the funding formula battle.

How nicely will these ads do?

Giles Coren on American Express's 'globalising' campaign

The airing of a new American Express commercial next Monday will see the end of an era, as a £20 million campaign bugles the last post for one of the most repeated catchphrases in the annals of advertising lore. Gone are the cringe-worthy interviews with very rich people explaining how the card helps them to spread their piles of cash around more easily. Gone is the close-up of the turquoise card with the holder's name and all-important membership date.

And gone, reportedly for ever, is the seminal early 1980s utterance, first mouthed by a toothy telephonist nearly 20 years ago: "That'll do nicely."

For American Express is no longer just a charge card. It is a brand. And its new commercial is based on the same indeterminate lifestyle suggestions that have habitually been used to sell anything from low-calorie drinks to shaving foam or tampons: people abseiling, going out for dinner and running gaily down the street with bags of shopping. They are what Russ Shaw, American Express's vice-president of advertising and brand management, calls "a series of successful outcomes in certain lifestyle situations". For brand, read bland.

He goes on to explain the soundtrack as "snippets from the American Express back office". This comprises the familiar, positive platitudes repeated *ad absurdum*: "No problem... don't worry... we can find the plan that best suits you."

"The television campaign is a campaign for the heart," Mr Shaw says. "And we hope there will be a synergy with the national press campaign, which will be a display case for our products and services. Our brand equity studies show that most people associate the brand name only with the charge card, and this campaign will move the brand imagery from a single product to multiple products and services, causing a reappraisal of the brand and making it relevant to a broader audience."

By 2000 we hope to achieve our global vision: to be the world's most respected service brand. We are not just a green card.

Indeed, the card does not feature at all. This, apparently, is all part of "globalising" the advertising campaign. Only 40 per cent of it was shot for the British market (red telephone boxes in green valleys etc); the rest is directly imported American schmalz, and common to the campaign all over the world.

The upside of this intellect-numbing turn, of course, is that we no longer have to listen to Anita Roddick saying "I go into villages," and telling us how much she likes ethnic smells. "I know some people in the office cringed a bit," says Mr Shaw, "but that was more because of her persona than the advert. I think."

So there was no hope for Ms Roddick, Sir Terence Conran and the adventurous travel-agent chap? "We tried to play around with the Quality People" campaign," says Mr Shaw, "but it was not going to work with our new objective — it was too focused on the charge card." It did, though, provide instant association with the company, something the bland new commercial struggles to do.

"We've spent a ton of money on a new campaign," Mr Shaw continues, "and the visuals — which are very original and high quality — will tell you instantly that it is American Express. But these commercials will take us away from the idea of American Express as an elitist thing for high-flying executives, and into the idea that it is something that can be useful to anybody."

"That'll do nicely" has become part of the British vernacular, but we, as a brand, are moving on. We will play around and get some synergies going. This will be 'in your face' advertising. "In a few years we hope everyone will be as familiar with our new tag line 'American Express can help you do more'."

'American Express is not merely a green card'

The British voice of authority the chattering classes ignore

130,000 in mainland Europe and 65,000 in Asia. Its profit last year of £18 million would delight most British national newspapers. Its journalists, the last in Britain who work in a genuinely collegial environment, were rewarded with a 30 per cent bonus.



Yet in Britain, it is not only 42-year-old management trainees who don't read *The Economist*. One reason is the sheer weight of weekend reading now required of the well-informed politician, businessman or journalist — above all

the job of ploughing through the jumbo Saturday and Sunday papers developed over the past decade. *The Spectator*, *New Statesman* and *Tribune* all have to be read. Add in *The TLS* or the *New York Review of Books* and the *London Review of Books*, or *Prospect* — the best new magazine since the death of *Encounter* — *Private Eye*, *The Oldie*, and all the pamphlets from think-tanks such as *Demos*, and there is scarcely time to denounce Gaza or play with the children.

The Economist is also daunting. There were 130 pages last week, compared with 64 in *The Spectator* and 50 in the revamped *New Statesman*, both of which — and particularly *The Spectator* — follow Fleet Street in believing that readers nowadays need entertainment as much as information.

So Hampstead and Islington dinner parties are much more likely to be discussing Paxman, Humphrys or Naughtie, Jenkins, Marr, Yung or Johnson (Boris or Paul) than any column in *The Economist* — mainly because *The Economist* persists in its policy of anonymity. Jenkins and Marr became names to bandy at dinner parties only when they left *The Economist*.

Yet even in Britain, whatever the views of the chattering classes, *The Economist* is on a roll. At £2.20 a week, it sells about 105,000 copies, air miles ahead of *The Spectator* or *New Statesman*. They don't pay that if they're not getting

serious, even dull, on serious subjects. Specialists in foreign affairs, who describe *The Economist*'s foreign coverage as "superb", would agree.

It is certainly cult reading in America and is as prominently placed in corporate headquarters as *Country Life* in the waiting rooms of British dentists (although Edward Heath, stung by criticism, once derided it as a coffee table magazine for pretentious American hostesses).

President Clinton is said to be a regular reader, as is his Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Bill Gates, the Microsoft billionaire, is another addict. On his fortieth birthday, staff presented a spool version to him with articles written in *Economist* prose.

Daniel Franklin, the Washington bureau chief, is regularly assaulted or complimented on the Georgetown dinner party circuit. "Owing to the anonymity of the articles, one tends to get less individual feedback, but I find that people comment in particular on the Lexington column," he says.

The truth, I suspect, is that *The Economist* is leaving Britain and its increasingly insular preoccupations behind and becoming a genuinely international magazine which is read more avidly in Brussels, Washington, Tokyo or Hong Kong than London.

As one of Britain's success stories, the paradox of *The Economist* in the 1990s is that its stature is now more celebrated abroad — particularly in the United States and increasingly in Asia — than at home.

Once a must for the chattering classes, it has become their guilty secret. They know they should read it, but somehow they never quite make the time.



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NEWS

Mrs Clinton accused of lying

Senators released a massive report on the Whitewater affair that amounted to the most damning indictment of a First Lady in American history. On issue after issue, the Senate Whitewater committee's Republican majority accused Hillary Clinton of wrongdoing, directly challenged her truthfulness, and said aides had perjured themselves to protect her. Page 1

Blair to reverse workers' rights policy

Tony Blair was heading for a further confrontation with trade unions after signalling that a Labour Government would not increase workers' rights. Speaking in Bonn, the Labour leader heralded a radical shift in the party's employment policy by warning that unions and workers would not be guaranteed extra protection under Labour. Page 1

RSPCA infiltrated

Thousands of field sports enthusiasts have infiltrated the RSPCA in an attempt to halt the charity's 20-year campaign against fox and deer hunting. Page 1

What explosion?

An elderly and partly deaf man emerged from the wreckage of the bombed Arndale Centre in Manchester after sleeping through the explosion. Pages 1, 5

Adams pressure

John Major and Tony Blair intensified the mounting pressure on Gerry Adams to deliver an IRA ceasefire or be banished forever from the Northern Ireland peace process. Page 2

Armed rapist

An armed rapist dragged a 16-year-old girl from her boyfriend at gunpoint as they strolled through a Hampshire wood. The boyfriend managed to raise an alarm. Page 3

Dunblane 'Hitler'

George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, removed his ten-year-old son from one of the Dunblane gunman's clubs because it resembled the Hitler Youth. Page 6

Rush for divorce

A surge in divorce in the next two years was predicted by lawyers as separating couples rush to get to the courts before the reforms become law. Page 8

Pub toast to £70 million

Michael Cannon, formerly a Berni Inn chef, was toasting the £70 million he made by selling The Magic Pub Company to Greene King, the Suffolk brewers, for nearly £200 million. It was the second time in three years that Mr Cannon, 55, had achieved business success. In 1993 he netted £26 million by selling Devenish, his first pub company. Page 1

Rubens challenge

The National Gallery has agreed to a scientific test of Rubens's *Samson and Delilah*, after a group of artists challenged its attribution. Page 11

War warnings

Israel's Prime Minister-elect, Benjamin Netanyahu, unveiled his right-wing Government amid Arab warnings of war. Page 13

Kohl's favourite

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, gave the most important signal yet that he has transferred his affection from John Major to Tony Blair by giving him an 85-minute audience. Page 14

General's promotion

A new political force was born in Russia after President Yeltsin appointed Aleksandr Lebed, a former general and the third-placed presidential candidate, National Security Adviser. Pages 14, 15

Mussolini mystery

The ghost of Mussolini returned to haunt Italy with the allegation that the dictator was shot in a farmyard by Luigi Longo, who went on to become head of the Italian Communist Party in the 1960s. Page 16

Church fire attacks

Two black Mississippi churches four miles apart were destroyed by fire. The previous night churches in North Carolina and Georgia were attacked. Page 17



England's best-known umpire, Harold "Dickie" Bird, at Lord's before his last Test which starts tomorrow. Cricket, page 45

PSBR rises: Hopes of tax cuts in the next Budget were dented by a higher than expected public sector borrowing requirement of £3.2 billion in May. Page 27

Copper probe: Investigations into the \$1.2 billion Summito copper scandal moved onto a criminal rather than a civil footing in America with the appointment of a grand jury by the US Attorney's office in New York. Page 27

On the buses: British Bus, the UK's third largest bus operator, is being acquired by Cowie Group for £282.3 million. Page 28

Markets: The FT-SE 100 closed 5.1 lower at 3,756.4. The pound fell from 85.8 to 85.6, falling 17 cents to \$1.5438 and .61 pfennigs to DM2.3387. Page 30

Football: France beat Bulgaria 3-1 to reach the quarter-finals of Euro 96 as winners of Group B. Spain also qualified with a 2-1 victory over Romania. Page 49

Cricket: Raymond Illingworth was considering his position as chairman of the England selectors after he was fined £2,000 by the Test and County Cricket Board. Page 52

Tennis: Pete Sampras, the holder and No.1 seed, was given a tough draw for Wimbledon. He opens against a fellow American, Richey Reneberg. Page 50

Racing: The Scottish-owned Bijou D'Inde beat Ashkalan, the unbeaten French 2,000 Guineas winner, in the St James's Palace Stakes on the opening day of Royal Ascot. Page 47

Music matters: To coincide with the National Music Festival, readers of The Times offer their views on the state of musical life in Britain. Page 38

Coward reviewed: At the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith, Mike Alfreds has staged a new production of Noël Coward's *Private Lives*. But are those clever lines beginning to show their age? Page 40

Cotton remembered: The latest biographical musical is *Wakely Wakely*, a tribute to the bandleader Billy Cotton. Page 40

Aldeburgh premieres: Twenty years after the death of its founder, Benjamin Britten, the Aldeburgh Festival still remains a composer's festival, with several notable premieres this year. Page 40

Ideas people: A mood, a look, an idea seem to be the main aim of the designers showing collections at London's Bhs Graduate Fashion Week presentations. Page 18

Witty winner: Brenda Maddox welcomes the move to BBC of *The Simpsons*, the most moral of cartoon series. Page 24

Political hit: *The Economist's* sales have risen, on several continents, in three decades and it has become a status symbol. Page 25

Lamberto Dini has warned that Italy will not allow the British to dictate the Florence agenda. If John Major wants to talk about cows, no-one can stop him. But the construction of Europe is not something that can be discussed under threat of blackmail. - La Repubblica, Rome

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILM Geoff Brown reviews the new action thriller *The Rock* (left), starring Nicolas Cage and Sean Connery

BOOKS

Malcolm Bradbury on Jay McInerney and other reviews of new writing



Geoff Brown reviews the new action thriller *The Rock* (left), starring Nicolas Cage and Sean Connery

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,198

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers and some pre-filled letters.

- ACROSS 1 After merger of firms, have a drink (5). 4 Quick to pass the amendment (9). 9 Volunteers rejected praise—that's characteristic (9). 10 A short first play (5). 11 Harris and Co. met in a bar, the one that's been done up (5,3,2,1,4). 12 See about the empty place (6). 14 Set table in a fashion, showing restraint (4-4). 17 Time to reserve an updated publication (8). 19 Book reveals after a month eggs have turned (6). 22 Become fond of somebody—female with railways to run (4,2,4,5). 24 Devout pope, filled with love (5). 25 An aroma—it can make a woman laugh (9).

Answers to crossword puzzle.

FORECAST

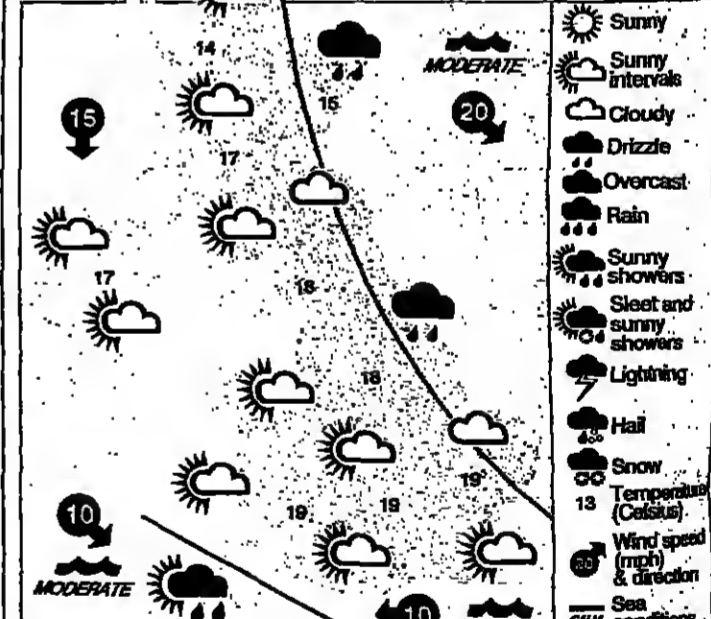
General: England and Wales will have rather more cloud than of late, but still be mainly dry with sunny spells. The east coast will be cloudy with occasional drizzle. Later in the day, the southwest may see some showers breaking out. Winds will be light and the air a little cooler. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly dry with sunny spells. Northern and eastern parts of Scotland will be rather cloudy with occasional drizzle or light rain. Winds will be fresh in the north. London, SE England, Central S England, Midlands, S Wales, Central N England: Dry with broken cloud and bright or sunny intervals. Wind light to moderate, mainly northerly. Max 19C (66F). E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders: Rather cloudy with occasional drizzle or rain. Wind moderate northerly. Max 18C (61F). Channel Isles, SW England: Dry and sunny at first, a few showers developing later in the day. Wind light and variable. Max 19C (66F). N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, N Ireland: Dry with bright or sunny intervals. Wind light to moderate northerly. Max 18C (64F). Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, with occasional rain or drizzle. Wind moderate to fresh northwesterly. Max 15C (59F) in south; 12C (54F) in north. Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: Dry with bright or sunny intervals. Wind moderate northerly. Max 14C (57F). Outlook: Outbreaks of rain in the east and south, otherwise dry, sunny spells. Pollen forecast: Scotland, northern England, Northern Ireland, North Wales, low; East Anglia, low to moderate; Midlands, London, moderate; South East, moderate to high; South Wales, South West, high.

ABOVE-BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing temperature, wind, rain, and cloud data for various regions in Britain over the last 24 hours.

Table showing temperature, wind, rain, and cloud data for various cities abroad.

CHANGES TO THE CHART BELOW FROM NOON: HIGH O WILL BUILD SLOWLY AND BE SLOW-MOVING NEAR ICELAND. LOW W WILL BE SLOW-MOVING AND WILL SLIGHTLY SLOW-MOVING OVER SCANDINAVIA



Changes to the chart below from noon: High O will build slowly and be slow-moving near Iceland. Low W will be slow-moving and will slightly slow-moving over Scandinavia

Table showing temperature and weather conditions for various cities across the UK.

Subscription and advertising information for The Times.

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FACILITIES 34, 35

Ringing changes on the Royal Navy's ships



ARTS 38-40

Whither music — or wither music? Readers respond



SPORT 45-52

First-day form in fashion stakes at Royal Ascot

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 50, 51

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19 1996

Budget tax cuts still expected Borrowing to miss target set by Clarke

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE Government is almost certain to overshoot its public borrowing target after only two months of the tax year, reflecting both disappointing tax revenues and signs that the Treasury is losing its grip on spending. The public sector borrowing requirement in May was £3.2 billion, somewhat more than the City had been expecting in spite of being flattered by £1.1 billion of privatisation proceeds. Another element to the disappointment yesterday was that the April PSBR, originally reported as £2.5 billion, was revised up to £3.5 billion. Excluding privatisation money, the deficit in May was £4.3 billion, worse than the total of £4.1 billion in May last year. Taking the first two months of the tax year together, the PSBR has been a cumulative £6.7 billion, an improvement on the £7.8 billion recorded at the same stage last year, but largely because privatisation proceeds came in earlier this year compared with last. Taking out privatisation, this year's borrowing over two months is actually £100 million higher than last year. Although the City is broadly cynical and believes that the Chancellor will still make net tax cuts in November's Budget, if only a modest £2 billion to £3 billion, economists believe that this is not justified economically. Even before yesterday's higher than expected figures, an average of 43 outside forecasts suggested that the PSBR for this year will total about £27 billion. This is already well above the Chancellor's forecast in the last Budget of £22.5 billion. City economists believe that Kenneth Clarke will have to raise his PSBR projection when he unveils his Summer Forecast on July 9 at least to this level, where the independent consensus lies. However, some forecasters were already pencilling in an even larger overshoot yesterday. Kevin Darlington, of House Govett, the broker, said that he was forecasting a PSBR this year of £30.5 billion, fully £8 billion more than the Government's current estimate. Mr Darlington noted that the Government had already overshoot on borrowing last year, that there were extra demands on spending such as the BSE crisis, and that growth was expected to be slower than the Government's 3 per cent forecast. Mr Clarke is expected to revise this down next month. Andrew Smith, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that yesterday's figures call into question the Chancellor's claim that public borrowing is on a downward trend and under control. "It is disturbing that the underlying trend of public borrowing, excluding privatisation receipts, is now running ahead of last year's poor performance," he said. Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said: "The miserable state of the public finances should scupper the Government's plans for big pre-election tax cuts, but we must hope that they do not cut taxes anyway and cause an even bigger fiscal crisis." There appear to be problems on both revenues and public spending. Although VAT payments seem to have recovered from last year's undershoot, income tax, corporation tax and non-VAT customs duties are all well below the Treasury's targets and need to accelerate significantly, according to Michael Saunders, of Salomon Brothers, if the PSBR is to fall close to the Treasury's current forecast. Spending — as measured by central government net departmental outlays — was up 3.3 per cent against May a year ago, well above the 1.2 per cent gain for the full year that the Treasury wants to see. In addition, the financial position of local authorities was much worse than a year ago. Last year, local authorities were in the black to the tune of £600 million in May. This year, the equivalent figure was £100 million. Tompous, page 30

Greenbury gets £1m in pay and option profits

By Sarah Bagnall

SIR Richard Greenbury, the chairman of Marks & Spencer, last year joined the elite group of British businessmen who received more than £1 million in pay and share option profits. Sir Richard, who chaired the Greenbury committee on directors' remuneration, saw his total remuneration edge ahead £9,000 to £816,000 in the year to March 31. His total reward was pushed over the £1 million mark by a £266,000 gain on exercising share options, compared with £91,000 in the previous year. Overall, 12 Marks & Spencer directors made total gains of nearly £2 million on exercising share options during the year. Of this, nearly £1.5 million was netted by the company's top five directors. According to the company's annual accounts, Keith Oates, deputy chairman and finance director, was the second highest paid director, with a total pay packet of £524,000. Mr Oates also made a £37,000 gain on exercising share options. Overall, the total remuneration, excluding share option gains, paid to the group's directors slipped from £5.8 million to £5.7 million. The company lifted pre-tax profits 7.2 per cent to £993.7 million and raised the dividend paid to shareholders by 10 per cent. Sir Richard, 59, has been with the company for 42 years. According to the company's annual accounts, if he retired at 60 would be entitled to a pension of £423,000 a year. This amount would fall when he reached state pension age. His annual pension entitlement has increased from £399,000 last year.



Greenbury: edged ahead



John Conlan, left, and Graham Coles, finance director, expect to create 1,400 jobs

First Leisure set to expand

By Oliver August

FIRST LEISURE, the bingo and bowling group, yesterday announced its biggest expansion programme, creating 1,400 jobs over the next 18 months. The group also reported half-year pre-tax profits of £18.1 million up from £17.2 million a year earlier. Turnover rose to £83 million from £71 million. "Right across all our businesses, it is the most extensive expansion we have ever embarked on," John Conlan, the chief executive, said. "The new openings will have a very major effect on the bottom line of First Leisure. Four new nightclubs and seven new bingo halls are scheduled to open in 1997, with construction under way or expected to start soon. In its fitness division, a centre is under construction in Coventry and will open in August. Three other centres around the country are to open next year. Following the latest trends, First Leisure is expanding its Branigan's chain of bars with live music. And design work for a Snowdome — an indoor real snow ski slope — is almost complete, and suitable sites are being sought. First Leisure said it was still affected by competition from the National Lottery. "The sort of people who come to our bingo halls are the same sort of people who buy scratch cards. But at least people no longer stay at home on Saturday nights to watch the draw," Mr Conlan said. Pennington, page 29

Ostrich business ordered to be closed

By Robert Miller

INVESTORS who spent millions of pounds buying ostriches from the controversial Ostrich Farming Corporation must now wait to establish their ownership of the birds, which can cost up to £14,500 each, after the High Court yesterday ordered that the company be wound up. Mr Justice Lightman said after the two-day hearing that the craze to cash in on ostrich farming was a "fashionable device for the fleeing of investors". He also called for an investigation into the "shady and dubious individuals" involved in OFC and added that millions of pounds of investors' money had been diverted from the company which was "used as a milch cow by people up to no good". OFC is also the subject of a formal investigation by the Serious Fraud Office. At Easter, Michael Pugh, the Official Receiver who is the provisional liquidator for OFC, visited seven farms and satellite sites in Belgium. He found 3,000 ostriches bought by UK investors. Each bird was supposed to have been electronically tagged with a number unique to each investor, but investigators from Mr Pugh's office have no clear record of who owns which bird. The Official Receiver last night promised to call a meeting of OFC creditors within two weeks to outline the position. In the meantime he will pay funds recovered from OFC to pay for the upkeep of the birds in Belgium. Mr Pugh is to make a similar application to the courts to use funds recovered from Pinstripe Farming Corporation, another ostrich company, to which he was appointed provisional liquidator on Monday. Stephen Whitmore, of Wilsons, the Salisbury law firm representing an action group of OFC investors, said: "The crucial matter now is that the Official Receiver clear up the position as to who owns which ostrich as quickly as possible." The court heard that OFC took £2.85 million from investors last year, rising to £4.3 million a month this year. The judge said OFC's sales literature was a "comprehensive bunch of lies and half truths". Pennington, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FT-SE 100, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, and STERLING.

Cowie buy

Cowie Group has acquired the privately owned British Bus Group, the country's third-largest bus operator for at least £282 million, a move that accelerates consolidation in the bus sector. The takeover ends British Bus's hopes of a flotation but will raise about £10 million for Dawson Williams, the company's chairman. Cowie, the largest bus operator in London, may have to relinquish some routes in the capital to avoid a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Page 28

Minorco deal

MINORCO, part of the Anglo-American mining group, has disposed of a 9.9 per cent stake in Johnson Matthey, the precious metals group, for about £132 million in a bought deal with SBC Warburg, the merchant bank. Minorco will earn a profit of £27.26 million on its original investment. Warburg yesterday placed more than half the shares with institutional investors. Stock market, page 30

US starts criminal inquiry into copper scandal

By Richard Thomson in New York and Robert Miller in London

INVESTIGATIONS into the \$12 billion Sumitomo copper scandal were yesterday moved on to a criminal rather than a civil footing in the US with the appointment of a grand jury by the US Attorney's office in New York. A criminal investigation is also under way in Britain led by the Serious Fraud Office. The grand jury will examine Sumitomo's dealing in the US and its links with at least two commodities trading firms. David Campbell, a co-founder of Global Minerals and Metals, has been subpoenaed to give evidence. The company said that it would eventually be shown that it had done nothing wrong. Sumitomo was by far Global's largest customer, and Mr Campbell had known Yasuo Hamanaka, the rogue copper trader who has inflated losses of at least \$1.2 billion on Sumitomo. Some copper traders believe that, in its first year of trading, Global earned around \$150 million from its relationship with Sumitomo. Copper central to the Sumitomo scandal is being stored at the Metro International Trade Services warehouse in California. Sumitomo opened two brokerage accounts in London, at Merrill Lynch and Rudolf Wolff, over which it gave Global power of attorney — thus effectively guaranteeing the firm's dealing in London. Sumitomo said these accounts were set up by Mr Hamanaka without its knowledge, and that they only came to light in May after an investigation. Both Global and Merrill, however, claim that Sumitomo officials more senior than Mr Hamanaka knew and approved the accounts. After the investigation a senior executive in Merrill Lynch's copper dealing division left the firm. It is understood that the Securities and Futures Authority, the UK's watchdog for brokers and futures dealers, is now studying the role she played. Executives of Global and Birch Brokerage, a New Jersey copper trading firm, are reported to have had close ties with the Winchester Commodities Group and Icani Commodities Group. The SFA looked into Winchester's dealings with Codeco, the Chilean state copper company and recently concluded that it had no grounds to take action. It is understood that the watchdog is monitoring Icani and other firms operating on the London Metal Exchange. In London today the first real test of the copper market's resilience to survive the scandal will be tested when Prime date settlement day falls due. This is when the longer-term copper contracts move to within three months of their expiry date. David King, chief executive of the LME, which will make a statement today on the Sumitomo scandal, said last night: "The copper market this week has been orderly and very liquid." Pennington, page 29



The Metro warehouse in California

Advertisement for John Charcol mortgage products, featuring a 4.99% APR offer and contact information.

□ Buses move further down consolidation track □ Assigning the blame on Sumitomo □ Whitbread's decidedly mixed double

Room for one regulator on top

□ WHO would have guessed ten years ago when the bus industry would be today? In 1986, as the centrepiece of bus privatisation and deregulation, state-owned National Bus was split into tiny pieces and sold for peanuts to managers. Councils had to end blanket subsidies to municipal services and streetwise outsiders were freed to start up whatever competing routes they liked after filling a few simple forms.

If the enterprising Cowie group is allowed to buy British Bus this summer, it will pay the going 1996 rate of £1 per £1 of turnover (some have paid more). And that is because three big companies — FirstBus, Stagecoach and Cowie — will then control about 56 per cent of all the bus services in the country.

Cowie reckons its coup, thanks to the SFO spoiling a British Bus flotation, is the last available on this scale. Stagecoach might agree. Its rampant expansion has run so deep into regulatory sands that it is trying to climb out via the courts. But with a couple of others on the heels of the big three, consolidation still has a way to go. In the meantime, a thousand flowers bloomed, faded, died or were pressed between takeover documents. Hail to the exciting era of competition, and goodbye.

Big operators, including National Express coaches, have al-

ready moved into railway services. Three top companies have so far won franchises and it is a fair bet that bus operators will end up owning much of the rail passenger business too, preferably in the same places as their bus services. Indeed if you win a rail franchise, you quickly try to mop up smaller local bus services on the line.

As the Monopolies and Mergers Commission noted after one of myriad investigations into malpractice by the competition authorities, the big bus operators show no inclination to compete against each other. Surprise, surprise. The free-for-all has had the desired effect of cutting subsidies from taxpayers, even though most of the cost was paid for by real wage cuts and higher fares, and the fall in passenger numbers has accelerated.

If you forget the competition shibboleth, however, consolidation may not be a bad thing. It brings order out of the worst kind of predatory behaviour. It allows a monopoly to develop naturally on the majority of routes where there is not enough traffic for two to make money, it

helps pay to replace ageing buses and it holds out some hope for hard-pressed bus workers.

Regulation of conduct, service and fares is inevitable, and logically under the wing of John Swift, the rail regulator. The volumes of detailed assurances now routinely required after a takeover show that it has already arrived in a chaotic, piecemeal way. Even regulation, it seems, is ripe for consolidation.

Up to a point, Lord Copper

□ JUST as precious few traders on the floor of the London Metal Exchange have ever been down a Chilean copper mine or could name six common industrial uses for the metal, few outside the arcane and hermetically sealed world of the LME have much idea how it works.

One villain has emerged from the Sumitomo affair. He is Mr Five Per Cent himself, Yasuo Hamanaka, who does not appear to have much to say for himself. Everyone else involved is, not surprisingly, putting up a dust

PENNINGTON



storm of claim and counter-claim. The LME was tipped off years ago that all was not well with Sumitomo but has taken up to now to act, say its critics.

True, but the LME, if you believe the Japanese papers warned Sumitomo twice over the past half decade that Mr Five Per Cent was up to no good. The company did nothing. The exchange's powers to act were hampered by the fact that Sumitomo is not a member but trades through intermediaries. Other regulators were hamstrung because Mr Hamanaka lived in Japan and traded in London using firms based in both London and New York. LME traders may have had little interest in blowing the whistle on

Mr Hamanaka's decade of trying to corner the world market because some were doing rather nicely betting against him.

These are just the sort of overlapping accusations that can be expected in the wake of a serious financial scandal like this. Eventually the truth will come out. But two facts are already self-evident.

The market survived. The price of copper remained within acceptable bounds rather than falling off the bottom of the graph, and the damage on settlement day today to most traders looks set to be limited.

The second is that if no one takes too much credit, the LME can expect to emerge with none at all. The exchange was just beginning to shake off its image as the last of the gentlemen's trading clubs, and now this happens. If policing the market and protecting those who trade on it was outside its abilities, then there is no justification for the LME's continued existence. If there were too many regulators involved, then perhaps there should be one. This column has argued before the need for a

super-regulator. The pity is that the argument will probably be just as strong the next time something goes badly wrong.

A match in name only

□ AS the great John McEnroe has been known to suggest in his gentle and understated way, there can often be some debate as to whether the ball is in or out. There is certainly a whiff of chalk dust about the status of David Lloyd, tennis star turned highly successful businessman.

Shareholders in Whitbread, which paid rather too much for Mr Lloyd's tennis clubs last year, were treated to a surreal display at yesterday's annual meeting. Sir Michael Angus, the chairman, suggested the situation was "under control", an underwhelming response to recent reports that his company and Mr Lloyd had fallen out.

Meanwhile, a stony-faced David Lloyd was sitting on his racket some feet away. He had been rather more outspoken three weeks ago in an emotional

address to some of his staff. He told them he was leaving.

His plans are important to Whitbread shareholders because of the £200 million that the group paid for David Lloyd Leisure, £40 million was reckoned to be for him alone, or at least for the continuing use of his name. This Whitbread has, for a quarter of a century. But a public bust-up would not help maintain the useful fiction that he and the clubs are still one and the same.

This is why the two parties are trying to paper over the cracks in public at least, even if in private they may be communicating by lawyers alone. Eventually, Mr Lloyd will have to clarify his position. He may want to run the clubs, but Whitbread has its own management team in. He can continue as a figurehead, as the company would prefer. Or he can walk. But the present tie-break cannot continue forever.

Wing and a prayer

□ EQUALLY surreal is the latest from the ostrich wars. There may be 5,000 of the wretched birds on the loose, as investors hope, in which case each might get his or her promised feast. More likely there are far fewer. However large the herd, its shepherd must now be the Official Receiver. Whoever said accountancy was boring?

Carpetright continues to expand as profits soar

By CARL MORTISHED

CARPETRIGHT, the rapidly expanding retailer whose chairman is Lord Harris of Peckham, achieved a 28 per cent boost to pre-tax profits last year but the rise to £25.2 million was not enough to impress the City and Carpetright shares fell 6 per cent to 585p.

New stores helped to fuel a 31 per cent rise in sales to £185 million and the company intends to use its debt-free balance sheet to expand the chain from 200 sites to 260 by the end of April next year.

Lord Harris said yesterday that Carpetright had maintained growth in a very depressed market and increased its market share to 12 per cent. "Our aim is to achieve 30 per cent of the market over the next few years," he said.

He said trading since the start of the financial year in

May was above expectations. Carpetright increased sales from existing stores by 13 per cent during the year to April 30 and the company expects to benefit in due course from signs of recovery in the housing market.

City analysts said the results fell about £1 million short of their profits expectations. The expense of launching new stores cost Carpetright £1.6 million last year, including the creation of two new brands: Carpet Depot, the out-of-town superstore format, and the Premier Carpet concession format. By the end of April, the group had opened 37 Premier Carpet concessions and nine Carpet Depots, while Carpetright has added a further 18 stores.

The company is spending £13 million to build a further 25 Carpet Depots and Lord Harris reckons there is scope for 70 across the country. Another 30 Premier Carpets will open by April as well as 25 more Carpetright outlets.

Carpetright finished its financial year with net cash resources of £13.2 million. The company is paying a total dividend of 14.5p, up 38 per cent on the previous year after earnings of 22.3p, up a third.

Carpetright invested £18 million in its business last year but strong cashflow enabled the company to end the year with net cash in the bank.



Harris: growth maintained

Tempus, page 30

TAEKWONDO, AIKIDO, JUJITSU, SHOTOKAN AND GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE. THEY'RE THE MOST POPULAR FORMS OF SELF-DEFENCE IN THE FAR EAST.



Since as far back as 1855, Guardian Royal Exchange have been practitioners in the noble art of insurance in the Far East. And today, we provide protection of black belt level proportions in 14 countries in the region, making us more widely represented there than any other European insurer. In these fast-growing nations, many areas of commerce and

industry are feeling the benefits of our worldwide expertise, as well as the numerous life, motor, and home insurance customers. As a multinational company which manages assets of over £18 billion, we're a force to be reckoned with, even without Karate chops and flying drop kicks. BETTER INSURANCE FOR THE WORLDLY WISE

Guardian
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KINGDOM OF MOROCCO MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS CONCESSION OF THE CASABLANCA-EL JADIDA- JORF LASFAR MOTORWAY INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

The Ministry of Public Works launches an international open tender for the prequalification of bidders interested in the concession of the Casablanca - El Jadida - Jorf Lasfar Motorway. This 120 Km motorway link represents the continuity of part of the network already constructed (Kénitra-Rabat and Rabat-Casablanca) and the one still under construction (Kénitra-Lamache and Fes-Rabat). The concession implies the successful bidder (concessionaire) will take charge of carrying out the detailed and tender design engineering studies, constructing the motorway Casablanca-El Jadida-Jorf Lasfar and operating it for a certain period of time to be defined later.

This tender is open to Moroccan or foreign corporate bodies, companies, banks and financial institutions, public and private corporations, alone or associated in joint ventures, and having satisfactory technical and financial references.

The prequalification application documents may be obtained by any interested bidder from the Direction des Routes et de la Circulation Routière of the Ministry of Public Works. The application for prequalification will be made by answering the questionnaire of the prequalification documents, and the duly filled in prequalification documents are to be sent along with a registration application, not later than July 31, 1996 at 6.00 PM to the following address:

Direction des Routes et de la Circulation Routière
B.P. 6226 Rabat Institut-Rabat-Marrakech
Tel: (212) (7) 71 32 46/44/40/38
Fax: (212) (7) 71 32 59/61

A briefing session is scheduled to be held on July 1st, 1996 at 8H30 AM at the Direction des Routes et de la Circulation Routière. Companies interested in attending this briefing session are requested to apply by June 24, 1996 at the latest.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

European choice

THE Prime Minister has Rupert Hambro to thank for today's turnout at a lively hall in the city.

Among the committee members of the society — founded in 1801 — are J O Hambro colleague David Brooke, Amschel Rothschild, and Michael Wentworth-Stanley from Cazenove.

Going Dutch

THE benefits of being owned by a European parent company extend far beyond the balance sheet.

Plan pays off

THE Co-operative Bank in Manchester flew into action after Saturday's bomb, putting into practice a contingency plan established after the IRA bombing in 1992.



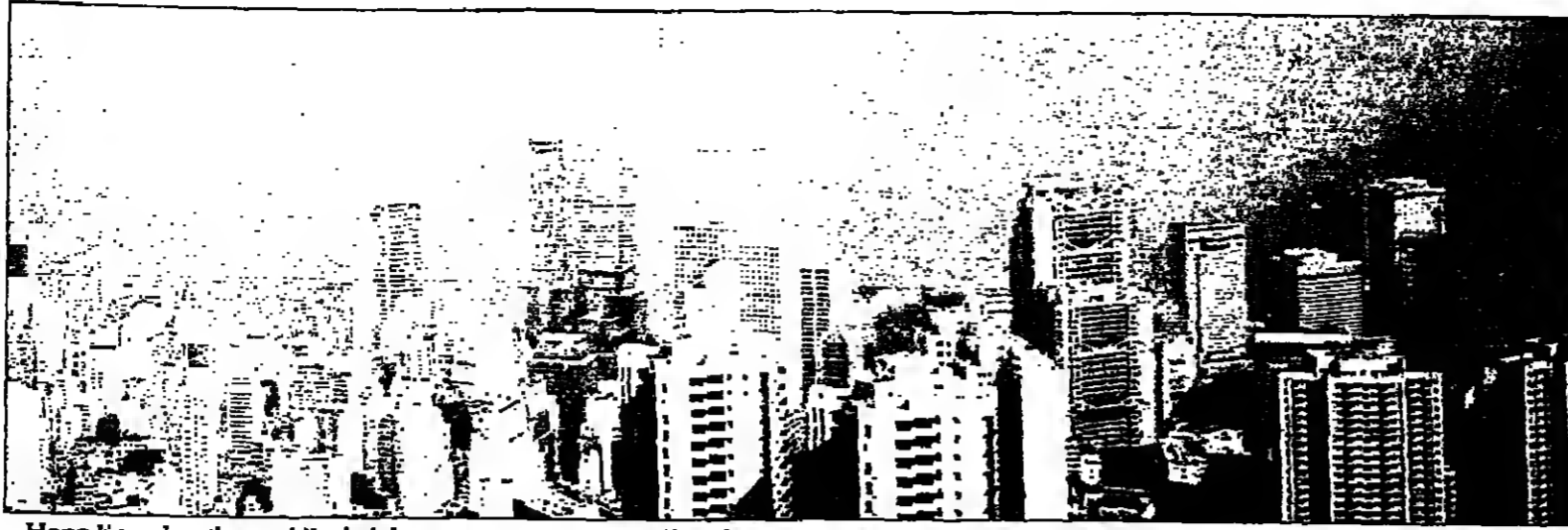
"Pass me another paracetamol"

Dropping in

ONE hundred City employees from firms including Barings, Hill Samuel and SBC Warburg will be throwing themselves off the 150-ft historic tower of St Lawrence Jewry today.

AMONG a team of London chefs invited to Wembley last night by MasterCard were Antony Worrall Thompson and Bruno Loubet.

MORAG PRESTON



Hong Kong has the world's sixth largest government spending chest, a spectacular accumulation of riches for a territory of six million people

China casts a covetous eye over Hong Kong's coffers

Tom Walker on what might happen to the colony's huge reserves after the handover

Chris Patten calls it "the biggest dowry since Cleopatra," while newspaper editors have coined the less arcane "Treasure Island".

In this final chapter of empire, the question on everybody's lips is: can China be trusted not to raid the kitty?

This winning formula has reaped a sum a third greater than Britain's foreign reserves (£30 billion) and easily sufficient to pay off Britain's annual budget deficit (£32 billion last year).

Only in the earliest stages of negotiations between Britain and China was there any speculation that the money could be repatriated to Britain.

Now, with just over a year until the handover, economists and academics are becoming wary of China's intentions with this windfall.

The most ominous indication came last month when Zhu Rongji, a Chinese vice Prime Minister, said he had few worries about the stability of the Hong Kong dollar post 1997.

Because China is currently soaking up so much of the world's capital, Mr DeGolyer says, if it can see a semi-legitimate route to domestic cash it will take it.

Another grey area for spending could be in infrastructure projects linking Hong Kong and the New Territories to China.

Other supposedly autonomous regions of China are forced to make this course, with up to 30 per cent of their ready cash transferred into patriotic bonds.

Officials are more cautious. A spokesman for Joseph Yam, Hong Kong Monetary Authority chief executive, said: "People don't feel they can talk about it because it will be the property of the Government of the SAR."

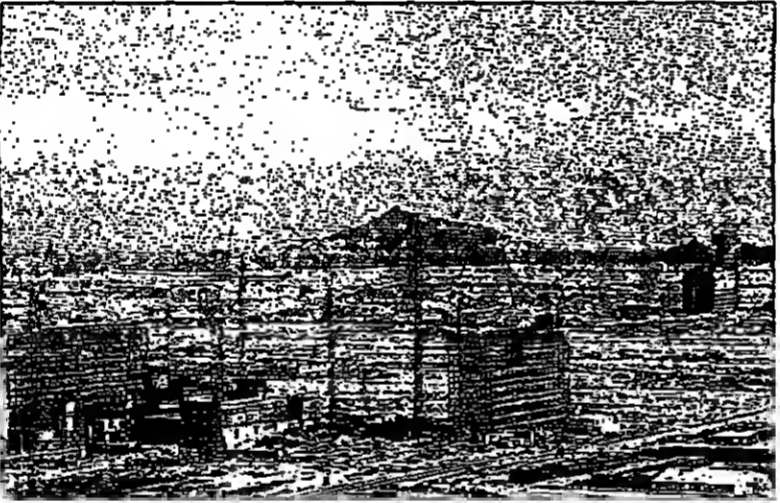
Hong Kong's treasure is in two storehouses. The Monetary Authority guards the largest pot, the "exchange fund," valued at £38 billion; there is then the Government's fiscal surplus, estimated at about £15 billion.

Analysts are already pointing out that China, when lumped together with Hong Kong and Taiwan, is statistically a more acceptable entity than China alone.

new naval base and send the bill to the Hong Kong treasury," says US military source. "That would wipe out \$10 billion of revenue surplus for a start."

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Analysts are already pointing out that China, when lumped together with Hong Kong and Taiwan, is statistically a more acceptable entity than China alone.



A rail link could cost more than the new airport at Chek Lap Kok



ANTHONY HARRIS

Keynes scores first in the Old Saws Test

The surge of growth just reported in Japan should have Lord Keynes cheering to his grave. Here is a recovery produced by Keynes's own method — heavy deficit spending on public works.

This is widely supposed to be impossible in the modern world: the bond market vigilantes would never allow it. But they have. Meanwhile, the French are proving Keynes's negative message the futility of trying to balance the budget in a recession.

Sound money men, whether of the Maastricht fiscal school or just monetarists, should be coaching in the nets. Tokyo has successfully defied their rules, (and proved, in passing, that devaluation does work in the right circumstances).

First, the duds. The practice of fiscal Puritanism has never been as rigid as Thatcherite handbag rules suggest. The French may have forgotten it, and Gordon Brown never have learnt it, but Lord Lawson, and even the Maastricht draftsmen, recognised that deficits may properly rise during a recession.

Current experience, then, does not suggest a world without constraints: simply a more pragmatic approach to policy making. And the strong currency doctrine seems to have retired. We are all devaluationists now — even the Bundesbank.

The irony here is that devaluation only works if somebody does not devalue. So the new orthodoxy may have a much shorter innings than the old: pragmatism wins. But can monetary policy be left to pragmatism? The money growth numbers worrying the bond market so much may reflect technicalities or something more sinister. Glitches are easy to suggest, such as the backwash of Japanese currency intervention. Or it could be a build-up of institutional liquidity as fund managers, both in Wall Street and in this country, as fund managers fear that the bond market is left to sell-by-date, and the equity bull market may be approaching it.

The case for worry, though, is simple: one reason why the money growth numbers are high is that both the US Fed and the Bank of Japan are supporting their own bond markets, and thus creating more money. This tactic breaks one of the most hallowed rules of sound management. It can only be justified by exceptional circumstances, but nobody quite knows what they are this time.

The proved remedy for a sick bank is a change of management, followed by a diet of safe lending to the Government. But what happens when the banks want to resume normal business?

The "sound" rule is to let them sell their bond holdings in the market; this will mop up money, raise interest rates, and so assure order. But both central banks seem to doubt that their patients are strong enough for this self-administered cure. If they are right, growth will reduce Government borrowing, and normal rules enforced in happier times. If they are wrong, stand by for bond market trouble soon, and inflation later.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Industry the loser of Ofgas proposals

From Irene Davis. Sir, As an employee, consumer and shareholder of British Gas, I am most concerned about the latest Ofgas proposals.

I have been employed by British Gas for nine years and can honestly say that I have never worked harder than I do now. Many people in the industry are under immense pressure and stress is now a common occurrence among all groups.

She may be trying to champion the cause of the consumer in terms of cheaper gas prices, but I doubt if the consumer will want this at the expense of safety and the livelihood of

Review should be carried out fairly

From Mr Philip G. Rogerson. Sir, Tempus (June 15) stated that British Gas's response to the Ofgas TransCo formula reviews proposals was "strong on presentation" but "fell curiously short of engaging the regulator on substantive issues."

Tempus correctly describes BG's complaint that Ofgas has refused to provide key assumptions about operating costs and the financial models that underpin the regulator's proposals. In fact, Ofgas has also refused to provide the relevant consultants' reports underpinning its proposals on operating expenditure and capital expenditure.

As to our being "hardly a model of openness, refusing to publish (our) own pricing proposals, which (we) admit would offer less to consumers", we have provided Ofgas and its consultants with everything they have requested.

Lloyd's sums wrong

From Commander G. M. B. Selous. Sir, Perhaps Lloyd's enduring troubles may be attributed to their poor mathematics. On their poor mathematics. On their poor mathematics.

Lloyd's package will not stop recurrence

Meanwhile "the best underwriters who continued to make profits from 1988 to 1992" and those managing agents who take 15 per cent commission on the £2.5 billion-plus profits made in 1993, 1994 and 1995 (with fees that is some £525 million) are contributing a mere £145 million to the £1.4 billion of market losses.

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

Midland Interest Rates for Business Customers

Table showing interest rates for various accounts (Money Master, Premium Business Account, etc.) effective from 14 June 1996. Columns include Gross % and Gross CAR %.

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax. CAR: Compounded Annual Rate, or the true Gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments. All rates quoted are per annum.

With effect from the 6 June 1996 Base Rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 5.75% p.a.



Midland Bank plc, 27 Pauline, London EC2P 2BX

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and other financial metrics. Includes sections for various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.



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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'THE TIMES' and 'ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES'.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including 'THE TIMES' and 'ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES'.

Small losses on the day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996 High Low Company Price % Chg P/E

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing stocks in the Alcoholic Beverages sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

BANKS

Table listing stocks in the Banks sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing stocks in the Breweries, Pubs & Rest sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Table listing stocks in the Building & Construct sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing stocks in the Building Materials sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

CHEMICALS

Table listing stocks in the Chemicals sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing stocks in the Distributors sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

ENGINEERING

Table listing stocks in the Engineering sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

1996 High Low Company Price % Chg P/E

Table listing stocks in the Diversified Industrials sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Table listing stocks in the Engineering, Vehicles sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table listing stocks in the Food Manufacturers sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

ELECTRICITY

Table listing stocks in the Electricity sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Table listing stocks in the Electronic & Elect sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

HEALTHCARE

Table listing stocks in the Healthcare sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Table listing stocks in the Household Goods sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

1996 High Low Company Price % Chg P/E

Table listing stocks in the Leisure & Hotels sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing stocks in the Mining sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

MINING

Table listing stocks in the Property sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

PROPERTY

Table listing stocks in the Telecommunications sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing stocks in the Textiles & Apparel sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

TEXTILES & APPAREL

Table listing stocks in the Transport sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

TRANSPORT

Table listing stocks in the Retailers, Food sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

RETAILERS, FOOD

1996 High Low Company Price % Chg P/E

Table listing stocks in the Pharmaceuticals sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table listing stocks in the Printing & Paper sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

PRINTING & PAPER

Table listing stocks in the Support Services sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Table listing stocks in the Water sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

WATER

Table listing stocks in the Alternative Inv Market sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table listing stocks in the Retailers, General sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing stocks in the Water sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

WATER

Table listing stocks in the Alternative Inv Market sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Advertisement for Moss Bros Royal Lacet, featuring an image of a hat and the text '18th - 21st June 1996 FOR STORE DETAILS TELEPHONE 0171 44 77 200'.

OIL & GAS

Table listing stocks in the Oil & Gas sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

MEDIA

Table listing stocks in the Media sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table listing stocks in the Other Financial sector with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing British Funds with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table listing short-term investments with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

LONGS (over 15 years)

Table listing long-term investments with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

UNDATED

Table listing undated investments with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

INDEX-LINKED

Table listing index-linked investments with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

SHORTS (5 to 15 years)

Table listing short-term investments (5-15 years) with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

MEDIA

Table listing media stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing general retailers with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

WATER

Table listing water stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table listing alternative investment market stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing food retailers with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

WATER

Table listing water stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table listing alternative investment market stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing general retailers with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

WATER

Table listing water stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table listing alternative investment market stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, and P/E.

Source: Financial Times

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Tony Dawe discovers just how much work it takes to provide the champagne and strawberries at Wimbledon

Anyone for strawberries and tennis?

Chris Gorrings knows a drop volley from a topspin lob, he can tell Yevgeny Kafelnikov from Sergei Bruguera and even understands the rules of croquet, but ask him about facilities management and he looks blank.

Yet for the coming fortnight, Mr Gorrings will be acting as the most high-profile facilities manager in Britain. As chief executive of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, he is responsible for 85 full-time staff and many hundreds of "outsourced" workers who must play as important a part as the tennis stars to ensure the Wimbledon championships are a success.

In the best traditions of Wimbledon, he sees himself as a club man rather than a manager. He joined the club 23 years ago and believes that while traditions are observed, the facilities at the championships are the best possible.

"When visitors leave at the end of a day, we want them to be able to say that they have had a great time at Wimbledon," he says.

To achieve this, he, his team and the club's committee adopt a British compromise style of management. The kitchen workers,

stewards and office staff who look after the club's 375 full members throughout the year continue to do their jobs, while an army of contractors is brought in to cope with the 28,000 spectators plus players, officials and the media who throng the club grounds for Wimbledon fortnight.

Some of these contracts have run for decades, some have gone out to tender and others have been awarded after recommendations or presentations to the committee. "We don't follow hard and fast rules," Mr Gorrings says. "You have to remember that for most of the year we run as a tennis club with a committee of 12 volunteers but also happen to host the championships with help from the Lawn Tennis Association."

Decisions about contracts are made in the autumn. The best-known contract is held by Town and Country Catering which supplies 12 tons of salmon, 24 tons of strawberries, 200,000 sandwiches and thousands of gallons of drinks from champagne to cola.

"We have been using the company since 1936," Mr Gorrings says, "but it has to justify its position. Our catering sub-commit-



A good deal? The company that provides the strawberries says it never gives fewer than ten a portion, no matter what the size

tee looks into the contract in close detail. There are not many companies, however, which can carry out what is the largest catering operation at any single sporting event in Europe, especially in such a tight space.

A less high-profile but even more vital contract is held by Equity Cleaning Services, which provides 300 staff ranging from court attendants to toilet and office cleaners. "Our contract runs from mid-May,

when about a dozen staff will begin tidying up the place, to the end of August when everything should finally be back in order for the members," Ray Pagliaro, managing director of Equity, says.

He approached Wimbledon officials in 1985 after his company had begun to specialise in outdoor events such as the Farnborough Air Show, was asked to tender and won the contract.

Other major contractors include

Securicor, which provides a large number of guards who are supplemented by service and honorary stewards appointed by the All England Club.

Ticketmaster provides turnstile staff and Hertz holds the transport contract, which in turn is outsourced to a company run by Pat Edwards, which recruits drivers to take the players and VIPs to and from the championships.

"That's not all," Mr Gorrings

adds. "We need 120 court covers in case of rain. 180 ballboys and girls from local schools and temporary staff to help the groundsman."

The chief executive also knows that if a player goes missing or any of his staff fall down on the job he will be called on to explain why to the world's media. Despite this, Mr Gorrings seems remarkably calm. "The sun helps," he says, thinking of the one factor that can destroy everyone's hard work.

TUPE DECISION

Businesses end long campaign

Business service providers have decided to end their campaign to have contracting out removed from the provisions of the European Union's Acquired Rights Directive, which protects the rights of employees when a business changes hands.

Rodney Hobson writes. This change in the stance of the strongest critic of the directive and of Tupe — Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) — the UK regulations that implement the EU directive, represents a triumph of realism over aspirations. The directive has produced conflicting court and employment tribunal rulings in Britain and on the Continent. The EU has been trying for more than a year to come up with a form of words that would clarify the issue.

Norman Rose, the Business Services Association's director-general, told a London conference on Tupe: "Business requires certainty from the law, particularly in an area such as the Tupe regulations, where confusion has been widespread. We do not believe that the new wording for Article 1.1 proposed — and now to be withdrawn — by the European Commission would achieve the desired effect of excluding contracting-out. Instead, it would simply reopen commercially damaging and costly legal uncertainty."

"Similarly, we believe that any amendment, drafted in suitable terms for inclusion in the directive and for the agreement of all member states, would be unlikely to achieve the required certainty."

Mr Rose said that case law developed over the past two years had consolidated the view that Tupe did apply to contracting out. "If the directive were to be amended, companies that had inherited liabilities under Tupe would be unable to pass them on. These costs would be substantial as they would relate to all previous periods of employment before the transfer."

Correction

THE Resman computer system (Facilities Management, May 15) at the Royal Liverpool Hospital NHS Trust is neither scheduled for replacement nor weak on reporting. Its interfaces are not limited to parking and security. Resman is working satisfactorily at more than 60 other British sites.

How the Americans are running the show around the world

What Olympians will eat

THE OLD South has seen nothing like it since General Sherman fed his Yankee army off the land while marching through Georgia. Rodney Hobson writes. Aramark, the catering specialist, needs 61,958 steaks, 3,333lb of black-eyed peas and 11,000 baguettes to cope with the invasion of Atlanta this summer. Aramark will be feeding 15,000 athletes at the Olympic Games from July 19 to August 4.

More than 100,000 hours of planning by chefs and nutritionists has resulted in a world menu of 550 recipes designed for contestants from 197 countries. American hens will be obliged to lay 576,000 eggs.

To make European contestants feel at home, Aramark will supply 7,850lb of spaghetti and 20,000 French rolls. Vegetarians can munch their way through 15,498lb of fresh asparagus, 25,000lb of mushrooms and 17,998lb of tomatoes. Salads will contain 46,560 bunches of spring onions and 30,000lb of radicchio. As a change from spaghetti, 34,000lb of rice will be on the boil.

For the sweet course, 23,342 pints of strawberries will be tempting contestants but 2,656 custard pies are deemed sufficient.

Aramark will prepare and serve more than five million meals at the Olympic Village and eight other venues.

A LEADING international tennis championship such as Wimbledon will obviously require the services of facility managers, but even small town clubs and modest-sized hotels are now seeking FM services to arrange tennis tournaments and coaching.

Tony Dawe writes. Peter Burwash International, based in Houston, Texas, has grown to become the largest tennis management company in the world with 85 professionals staffing 50 sites in 23 countries. It now has a rival with the formation of Tennis Professional International (TPI) which describes itself as a "tennis facility management organisation".

Founded in California by Lloyd Schweizer, a tennis professional turned entrepreneur, it aims to take on all the tedious tasks which tennis club officials and hotel activities managers hate. It will

Players in the FM game

arrange individual coaching and classes, attempt to make them interesting and plan any type of tournament from a club "round robin" to an open championship.

One of its first contracts is with Cap Juluca, the award-winning resort on the British West Indies island of Anguilla, where John Miller is the TPI professional. Aged 21, he spent two years on the

international circuit before deciding he would prefer to coach and manage.

"It's a tremendous game and I hope to get as many guests as possible enjoying it," he said. "Coaching can be fun and still improve ground shots and volleys and help players with doubles strategy."

"Competitions can bring out the best in players and in the long run I would like to attract some top names down here to coach and play alongside guests in pro-am tournaments."

The arrangement with Cap Juluca is that the resort takes half the coaching and playing fees in return for providing and maintaining all-weather courts. TPI took over the contract from Peter Burwash but has a long way to go before it can claim, as Burwash does, to have "reached four million tennis players in the past 20 years".

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MSc Facilities Management

Rodney Hobson on how privatisation is helping the Royal Navy to use its crews more effectively

Shipshape with the contract cleaners

Shiver me timbers! Landlubbers are swabbing the decks of *The Iron Duke*, the Royal Navy's super frigate. Care Services, which has been managing facilities at the Devonport Dockyard at Plymouth since 1991, is keeping vessels shipshape while they are in port.

"Perry" Mason, Care's on-site manager, explains: "Modern technology has meant that numbers of staff on board have diminished. But keeping the vessel clean can be difficult. When a ship's staff go alongside, the first thing they want to do is to put right any technical problems. They do not want to be swabbing the decks."

"At sea, anyone on board may have to help with cleaning. It is a mundane job but everyone accepts that it has to be done. But when the ship is alongside, the crew can be free to do other essential work. All military personnel are trained to high technical standards and it is a waste to have them cleaning decks all the time."

Care's work includes cleaning

toilets, bathrooms, kitchens, eating and drinking areas, laundry, lobbies and passageways. Responsibility for the entire superstructure includes radar, missiles and gun turrets, lifeboats and funnels.

Care's work has included cleaning *The Iron Duke*, the Type 23 frigate that was in Devonport this month for a week's scrubbing and polishing, patrol craft and nuclear submarines. Equipment used ranges from high-pressure jets and high-speed rotating brushes to rags (always cotton) for hand-drying polished surfaces. Cleaning liquids and disinfectants are environmentally friendly.

The RN was once the biggest employer in the South West and the cutback in the Armed Services has hit the Devon town hard. Mr Mason was in the Navy for 23 years. His real name is Jim, but with his nickname "Perry", he is probably better known in Devonport than the American lawyer-detective whose name he has adopted. Most of his staff are also ex-RN. Having so many naval people on

board helps. Care sends staff to clean ships at other locations, such as Penarth in Glamorgan, where there is a training squadron, Dartmouth, and Loch Goyle in Scotland. It has also secured work in private ship-repair yards in the South West.

Staff often work in cramped conditions such as the engine room or conning tower. A specially made folding ladder is the only practical way to get into some of those tight corners. Mr Mason says: "The staff are aware of emergency procedures, such as what to do in a fire. If they were down in the bilges and the generator failed, the ship would be in darkness. They would rely on their training and knowledge to get out."

Any materials used have to be cleared by the Ministry of Defence. Detergents can react in the atmosphere of a nuclear submarine; toilet cleaners can devastate a ship's sewage-treatment plant.

Mr Mason says: "We have a great relationship with the crews. It helps that many of us are ex-Navy."



"Perry" Mason adds a polished finish to HMS Cumberland at the Devonport Dockyard

COMPANY MOVES

Keeping houses in order

BUILDING maintenance work on the Kinson housing estate has been awarded by Bournemouth Borough Council to Haydon Group, part of Johnson Controls. The work will range from mending light switches to structural repairs on the 2,500 low-rise dwellings.

Mowlem FM has won the commission to manage the Public Record Office at Kew, west London, including a new £33 million extension. The buildings incorporate complex mechanical and electrical plant to achieve the stringent storage conditions required to preserve the national archives.

Security takes a large slice of FM budgets, so it is no surprise that more than 2,000 visitors are already pre-registered for the Business Security Exhibition of Islington, north London, in October. Details: 0171 727 7380.

Brandon Hire, the Bristol-based tool and catering equipment hire company, has paid £2.1 million for Poole Rentequip to spread its coverage along the South Coast.

Management of the computer system that handles run-off business at Nicholson Leslie, the insurance broker, has been outsourced to Datasure.

A five-year, £3 million deal to manage facilities for Mobil, the oil company, at three buildings has been secured by Procord.

The £21 million design, build, finance and operate contract for the A50/A564 link road between Stoke-on-Trent and Derby has been awarded to a consortium formed by BICC, Philipp Holzmann and WS Atkins.

Entries are invited for this year's Office of the Year award scheme run by the British Institute of Facilities Management in association with *The Times*. The awards are for purpose-built, existing and small offices in the UK occupied before April 1 this year, and for innovation, FM teamwork and environmental contributions. Details and entry forms from the BIFM Secretariat, 67 High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1AA (tel: 01799 508608).



Shifting desks: clusters of workstations can be arranged around a central space

Move the desks, not the staff

YOU HAVE heard about "nomad" office workers, staff who use any spare desk or meeting room. Now there is a new concept: nomad office furniture. The claim is that it will boost corporate creativity.

Bartle Bogle Hegarty, the advertising agency, has just moved from its cellular offices in Soho's Pultney Street to a new open-plan office in nearby Kingley Street. An essential ingredient in its cultural revolution will be "nomad" meeting tables on castors.

BBH had functioned in the traditional manner of advertising agencies, with separate departments — planning, creative and accounts management — talking only to themselves. Now the company is redesigning the way its staff work and the space in which they do so.

Martin Smith, the managing director, says: "The new layout will enable a switch to project-based team working."

Mixed teams of 16 workers, with planners and account managers working together for the first time, will sit at clusters of workstations. Each cluster is arranged around a central space, and in the middle

A new approach to workstation layouts

of these magic circles will stand the nomad meeting tables at which the entire team will gather for brainstorming sessions. Alternatively, for smaller impromptu meetings, anyone can grab a bit of the table and wheel it nearer to their workstation: the nomad table is composed of separate sections that fit together.

Lesley Kohler, space planning manager at Total Office Group, masterminded the arrangement. She says that keeping each team together at all times, whether they are working individually or as a group, is more conducive to creative work.

BBH's new furniture is called the TNT system, just launched by the manufacturer Steelcase Strafor. TNT stands for *travaux nouveaux trucs* (always new tricks). The workstations consist of a simple leg frame on to which the serpentine worktops — more space-efficient than the conventional rectangle — clip on and off. James Rich-

ardson, BBH's administration head, says: "You can assemble a workstation in a few minutes, using simple tools."

The TNT system has also been used by the senior retail management of Thomas Cook, who are being decanted to a converted warehouse in Peterborough. Here a "themed" design by Business Design Group, with meeting rooms partitioned by canvas-like tents and suspended banners like giant sails, is expected to fire up staff creativity.

Nomadic office furniture has its limits, however. Tables on castors may be useful, but who wants to trundle around large storage cupboards full of files? Bulk storage at BBH and Thomas Cook remains firmly immobile.

In the age of electronic communications companies are busily co-locating selected people, as much to simplify their networking as to make them spark off each other better. It looks as though the physical office will remain, which undoubtedly is cheering news to facility managers.

LAURA BLAIR

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MUSIC 1 From the perilous financial condition of our professional symphony orchestras...



MUSIC 2 ... and questions over the high ticket prices charged in opera houses and concert halls...

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 3 ... to concerns over the quantity and quality of music teaching in schools...



MUSIC 4 ... and a grumble about derivative pop: Times readers offer pungent views about British music

Bang the drum, or sound the alarm?

To celebrate this month's National Music Festival we asked readers for their views of British musical life. The response was overwhelming. Here is a selection of your letters

ORCHESTRAS

COMPARED with our European partners, Britain's public investment in its orchestras is shamefully low. The Berlin Philharmonic receives more than all of Britain's orchestras put together...

ON A good day our orchestras can play the parts off the foreign competition. But they only play their best for the great conductors...

Hard decisions are required to match the conditions abroad. We need fewer orchestras chasing the same artists, venues, sponsors and funding...

MY CONCERN is the minimal coverage of orchestral music in the provinces in recent years by the "quality" national press...



Concerns about how many opportunities for music-making are offered to children were at the forefront of many readers' minds

quently as ospreys alight on the Norfolk Broads. The financial state of orchestral music is precarious...

lieber decades. It is not enough to celebrate the opening of new halls with "cheers and fanfares"...

almost invariable inclusion of a modern work in the programme. No one wants to listen to them; yet, inexplicably, the practice persists...

quired, and that classical concerts are forbidding. They are also seen as expensive. One way of dealing with the present funding crisis...

term consequences of the BBC's decision in the early Seventies to segregate all classical music on Radio 3...

My next course was to approach the Student Loan Company, but I discovered that they only made loans to postgraduates taking a postgraduate certificate of education...

POP VALUES

IT IS several years since the British pop scene has looked this bad. The Sixties and Seventies have been scoured by the Britpop movement...

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COUNTRY RENTALS IRELAND COSTELLOE LODGE CO GALWAY Enchanting country residence, 24 miles from Galway City...

ELITISM AS A teacher, earning £22,000 a year, I find it peculiar that my taxes should support artistic institutions that I cannot afford to attend...

CHILDREN DESPITE our worst fears, music education has prospered in many areas. On the other hand it has vanished completely in some parts of Britain...

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Too C... Richard I... David Troughton gives a remarkable... competing... and poignant... performance... WHAT is the one thing that can lift my spirits after a long day at work, and the stop-go grind of the misery line? Why, an evening of barbershop singing. Let's get those chords ringing, let's fill the hall with harmonies, let's forget the washing-up. Tonight I'm a barbershopper. Weekends away for competitions. Singing in the queue for lunch, Midnight feasts in the dorm, giggles unlimited. Singing on stages, in churches, on trains and boats and planes. People from all walks of life just blow that pitch-pipe and we will unite in our love of singing. Marion Morley Carshalton Ladies Barber-shop Harmony Club



THEATRE 1

Very flat, Noël: even the clever lines in Coward's *Private Lives* sound a little tired these days



THEATRE 2

Another band show: Billy Cotton's life and music are celebrated in *Wake! Wake!*

THE TIMES ARTS



OFFER

Puccini going for a song: see our Theatre Club panel for the best opera bargains



TOMORROW

How does Nicolas Cage measure up to Sean Connery? Read Geoff Brown's verdict on the new films

THEATRE: Coward's classic shows signs of wear; an evening with a remarkable man; the life of a showbiz trouper

Too clever by two-thirds

Coward's comedy of bad manners is an imperishable work: we know that, we've said so for years. Indeed decades, ever since 1930. But during Act II there stole over me the nervous suspicion that within the lifetime of actors now at RADA this play may not seem anything like so imperishable. It may, indeed, have perished.

This forecast could be too pessimistic. The opening act is admirably crafted, dovetailing the duologues of the two couples so artfully that what we learn from one complements what we learn from the other, but never leaves us complaining of repetition. First Elyot and Sybil, newly married, stroll on to the balcony of their Desauville hotel and all she wants to talk about is his first wife, Amanda. Then it is the turn of Victor and his new wife to appear on the neighbouring balcony. Of course his wife is Amanda, and of course what he wants to talk about is her marriage to Elyot.

The inevitable meeting occurs, Amanda and Elyot realise they have never stopped loving each other and race off to Paris together. Victor and Sybil emerge in search of them and the act rounds itself off with her repeating the lines about a yacht in the harbour with which the act began. In 50 years' time this act could still be popular as a perfect little one-act play.

There is more to be said of the predicament the couples find themselves in, and Coward says it in two further acts. Much that he says is unexpected and beautifully phrased, but now repetition does come in, and swiftly, when Amanda and Elyot are rollicking around in her Paris flat, quarrelling, making it up, quarrelling again.

Yes, Coward wants to show us how difficult it is for two people, both alike in flippancy, to cope with those moments when the brittle talk snaps and the insecurity floods forth. But the point is made, and made and made again.

After their other halves reappear, the interlocking duologues echo those in the opening act, but not so engagingly. We hear the unmistakable hiss of air escaping from that which was once a marvellous balloon and is now un-

Private Lives
Lyric, Hammersmith

stoppably drifting down to earth.

The cast of four seen last week ponderously working through *Jude the Obscure* enjoy a better outing with the Coward. The lack of a fifth performer to play the maid means some lines vanish, and she might have been usefully employed sweeping up the wrecked cushion that Simon Robson's Elyot handles too malevolently. He and Abigail Thaw's Amanda are required

to stride through feathers for the remainder of their scene. Robson's performance, emphasising the little boy, is oddly concerned that we should all hear him. Thaw's voice swoops like a proud, swift bird, and she develops a good gesture of arms falling wearily to her side, too exhausted to argue further.

Geraldine Alexander and Martin Marquez make a comical Aunt and Uncle Sally, Marquez with his stiff neck and chin tucked in, backing away from Amanda as though her head was encased in something radioactive.

The director, Mike Alfreds, forgets the moonlight, and a divided balcony set by Paul Dart means that Sybil, most improbably, must scramble over the barrier for her cocktail. Most of the clever lines still sound cleverish, but rather, tired around the edges.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Elyot (Simon Robson) and Amanda (Abigail Thaw) swap one-liners in *Private Lives*

BARCLAYS New Stages often justifies its boast to be "a festival of the very best in cutting edge performance" — most recently, with Janice Galloway's *Trick is to Keep Breathing* — but seldom as literally as this. Photos of what appear to be long, serrated knives, representing broken nerves or their microbiological destroyers, are projected onto the stage's side-walls. Beside them is a young man who describes what it is like to live, day after day, feeling there are "a thousand pieces of glass piercing the bones, twisting and turning, digging deeper and deeper".

He is Graham Cunningham, who has suffered from rheumatoid arthritis as long as he can recall. The monologue *Pain*, which is performed by him and presented by a Glasgow company called NVA, lives up to its blunt, bald title in two ways. Troubling sounds and images — lurid whorls, pulsating cells, metallic bangs and grindings, even an upside-down figure spinning in the void — evoke the experience of being trapped by

Insights from a life of agony

Pain
Royal Court

pain. Meanwhile, Cunningham tells us his story in the tones, not of the desperate invalid, but of the dogged survivor. His mother was drowned in the bath while she was pregnant. His father clearly struggled bringing up two children, one of them seriously disabled and bewildered by his own helplessness. Much of Graham's early life was spent hooked up to machines with bewildering names or being poked at by not-very-effective

doctors. But there came a point when he threw away his pills and, he says, refused to accept his status as victim.

He seems to have started thinking of his war with pain as the struggle of his capacity for love with a harsh, punishing world. This took the bizarre form of joining a band whose members biffed the iron detritus they found on abandoned industrial estates by way of protesting against Thatcherism; but the effect was cathartic and therapeutic.

Conventional criticism breaks down at this point. What can I say, except that Cunningham's continuing battle with an elusive, unforgiving disease is the more impressive because he does not ask for pity or even much sympathy. He seems to see himself as an explorer, forced by circumstances along cliff-faces he would rather avoid but rewarded by insights and feelings that have verged on the mystical. He and *Pain* merit unequivocal respect.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Rich Cotton pickings

Wake! Wake!
Belgrade, Coventry

The bespectacled dance-band leader Billy Cotton, the London lad who made it to the top as a variety-show host on the wireless then the box, has at least one foot in heaven. Cotton (Roy Heather), in this better-than-average musical stage blog, is hallucinating after the stroke he suffered in 1963. His stockied, from which he keeps trying to struggle back to work, defying his nurse (Daniel Cole), is adrift amid clouds in a blue sky.

In a mild haze, Cotton is remembering flashes of his life with his father who belts him with his schoolmaster who mocks him as a duncer; with Mabel, his long-suffering wife.

With a touch of *The Singing Detective*, Cotton's delirium merges friends and family with the chorus girls and

fairly discreet with Cotton's dirty linen.

Richard Cameron's script is no great shakes. He draws some threads together, mentioning in passing Billy's son Ted named after his brother who also died young, but there is too much sentimentality.

Nonetheless, Mark Babych's direction segues snappily between scenes and avoids tacky glitz. Instead of Cotton's sequined dancing girls we get his mother and Mabel jiving in their aprons. The ensemble are charmingly relaxed, nifty movers breezily harmonising *Why Worry?* The Dave Brintley Band are tightly drilled. You can tap a toe to the tunes but you might be twiddling your thumbs between times.

The biographical material is the basic problem. Cotton may have had several strings to his bow — flying, boxing, car racing, football — but there is little to say about his sporting activities. Mabel clearly suspects her husband has had

fairly discreet with Cotton's dirty linen.

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KATE BASSETT

John Allison on the mixed performances heard at two concerts in the Aldeburgh Festival

Still a composer's festival

However much the Aldeburgh Festival may have changed in the 20 years since Britten's death, it remains above all a composer's festival. A pair of concerts on Saturday featured the music of three very different living composers — Anthony Payne, who introduced his works, Marc Neikrug, who premiered his Aldeburgh commission, and Hans Werner Henze, who sent apologies for his absence — while a fourth, the festival's artistic director Oliver Knussen, conducted. Payne's 60th Birthday Concert in the Jubilee Hall was a

personal occasion performed by his wife, the soprano Jane Manning, and the ensemble Jane's Minstrels. It gave him the chance to present his music in the context of that which influences him: the English late-Romantics and the European avant-garde, represented by Roberto Gerhard's *Libra*, Four Songs by Brinen's teacher Frank Bridge, and the original violin and piano versions of Elgar's *Chanson de nuit* and *Chan-*

son de matin. Though the Elgar came across a little casually, Payne's *scat*, *A Day in the Life of a Mayfly*, received a tight performance. It is a fluttering scherzo cum lone-poem, and its frenetic short motifs reflect the modernist influences on Payne's Englishness. The thoughtfulness so typical of Payne's music was more evident in the spiritual journey of *Evening Land*, a setting of Par Lagerkvist poems for voice

and piano, and in the writing for flute and guitar in two movements from *A 1940s Childhood*, where nostalgia and desolation are evoked in ironically juxtaposed images of war and countryside. At Snape Maltings, Knussen and the London Sinfonietta were joined by Neikrug, an American pianist-composer who turns 50 this year, for the premiere of his Piano Concerto. The 25-minute, single-movement

piece opened promisingly, with bare, foreboding sonorities from which the piano emerged. But the textures soon thickened, and one emotionally wrought climax followed another. Before long it began to sound like a conventional late-Romantic concerto full of wrong notes. Empty virtuoso gestures pulled.

Two wonderful ballet scores framed it. The orchestra caught all the swirling colour of Stravinsky's *Scènes de ballet*, in which his Neo-Classicism is warmed by Russian and Broadway influences. Henze, whose 70th birthday is being marked by this Aldeburgh residency, was heard in substantial chunks from *Ondine* (1958). It is a vividly theatrical score, and the story came alive even in concert. Evocative curtain music, throbbing dances, languorous Mediterranean scenes and grand processionals all show Henze liberating himself from the shackles of postwar German music at a time when he also began his association with Britten and Aldeburgh.

The Tragedy of King **Richard III** RSC
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
Presented by ALLIED DOMECO

David Troughton gives a remarkably compelling and poignant performance. Observer

'A big florid production' Times

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Opera now

THEATRE CLUB

SUMMER of sport? More like a summer of great London opera for Theatre Club members. On June 29, the Coliseum plays host to Steven Pimlott's production of Puccini's well-loved *La Bohème*, and members can save 20 per cent on all tickets (normally £8 to £47) for the 2.30pm matinee performance. Mary Plazas sings Mimì and David Owen is Rodolfo as Pimlott's vision of this romantic masterpiece combines Parisian streetlife with dreamlike recollection. To book, telephone 0171-632 8300. Offer subject to availability of tickets.

Meanwhile, the Almeida Theatre in Islington is welcoming back *Experimentum Mundi*, the hit of last year's Almeida Opera Season. Giorgio Battistelli's score involves a whole Italian village of craftsmen — road pavers, cobblers, smiths and pasta makers — whose sounds build up into a wonderful, vibrant performance. Theatre Club members can save £9 on top-priced tickets (normally £16.50) for the opening night, June 24, with a chance to meet members of the cast after the performance. Tel 0171-359 4404.

On July 13, 16 and 19, club members can experience Verdi's *La traviata* at the Royal Opera House. In Richard Eyre's popular production, an excellent cast is led by the young Greek soprano Elena Kelessidi as Violetta, with the Sicilian tenor Vincenzo la Scola making his debut as Alfredo. Orchestra side stall tickets are £86.25 (normally £115). Tel 0171-304 4000

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage.

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● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50 to £9.50) for Wed and Thurs evening performances of the all-star *Summer Spectacular*. Tel 01292 611222

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Stephen Joseph (June 24, 25)
● TWO for one (normally £9.50) for Michael Frayn's version of *Wild Honey*. Tel 01723 370541

NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME
New Victoria (July 1-3)
● Two for one (normally £6.50 to £7.95) for Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. Tel 01782 717962

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● SAVE £3 on tickets (normally £8 to £10) for Stephanie Young's adaptation of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*. Tel 01733 52439

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Palace (July 1-4)
● TWO for one (normally £11.25 to £13.25) for Peter Ustinov's *Beethoven's Tenth*. Tel 01923 225671

CANTERBURY
Marlowe (July 11)
● TWO for one (normally £7.50 to £13.50) for Alan Ayckbourn's *Absent Friends*. Tel 01227 787787

MORE MUSIC

NOW in its twelfth year, the Luffhansa Festival of Baroque Music has become a major event in London's musical life. Save 25 per cent on seats (normally £18) for two of the concerts at St James's Church, Piccadilly. To book, tel 0171-437 5053 (Mon-Fri, 11am-7pm)

June 19: Flautist Jed Wentz plays works by Vivaldi, Locatelli and Quantz as well as Bach's Fifth Brandenburg Concerto.

June 26: A programme of sacred music by Lully and Paolo Lorenzani

Royal National Theatre

Mary Stuart

by Friedrich Schiller, in a new translation by Jeremy Sams

Isabelle Huppert "Astonishing" Independent on Sunday

Anna Massey "To die for" Mail on Sunday

Tim Pigott-Smith "Magnificent" Observer

Box Office 0171-928 2252

Lyttelton Theatre: Fri 21 & Mon 24 June at 7.30pm, Sat 22 & Tue 25 June at 2.15pm & 7.30pm & continuing.

NT
NATIONAL THEATRE

EARLS COURT THEATRE LONDON

CHOICE 1

Baroque music in Piccadilly: the Lufthansa Festival takes off

VENUE: Tonight at St James's Church

CHOICE 2

Katie Mitchell revives The Phoenician Women

VENUE: Tonight at the Barbican Pit

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Christopher Bruce brings his Rambert Dance Company to Birmingham

VENUE: Tonight at the Repertory Theatre

CHOICE 4

A feast of fine choral music is featured at the Aldeburgh Festival

VENUE: Tonight at Snape Maltings

Hilary Finch enters another world with the musicians at Wells Cathedral School

From slaves to the rhythm



In a corner of Wells stands a gracious mansion, built in 1758 with the wealth derived from the Antiguan sugar estates of the Tudway family. Its Ionic portals and exquisite interior plasterwork were built, as it were, from the blood and sweat of some 500 Negro slaves. "Forty-five pounds is a good price for an able stout fellow," whispers the family records...

"From the shady drawing room of the Cedars resonates a strange thrumming of steel pans, gongs and metallophones"

World music is the latest development in the formidable musical history of Wells Cathedral School. The school's Specialist Music Scheme, founded in 1970 in the wake of the Gulbenkian report, Making Musicians, provides specialist training within the curriculum of a conventional educational school.

Surrounded by chintzy sofas and parlour palms. Two or three of them are specialists; some have had no previous experience of instrumental music. A minimalist cogwheel of pentatonic melodic sequences is turning from a rack of gongs, a cluster of metallophones, and two sets of bonangs - little gongs on what appear to be their own wooden sofas.

termly visit by a specialist consultant who also provides in-service training for the teachers and tops up student expertise. Asian music could eventually take its place within the school's specialist scheme. But for now the sitar, tabla, harmonium, Indian banjo, svara-mandel (dulcimer) and dholak (two-ended drum) are used in classroom music, to enable the techniques of composition to be applied within their own vivid soundscape.

Something of those exotic sounds can be heard in a concert at the Barbican on Monday, which celebrates 25 years of the school's specialist

music scheme. But performance at Wells is never an end in itself. The world music department is already offering workshops in local primary schools. A World Music Centre has recently been opened, providing opportunities for people outside the school to take up weekend and holiday courses. "Our whole philosophy," says John Baxter, the Head Master, "is to enable our music to be part of community provision. Increasingly we feel we have a responsibility to put back something of what we've gained."

The Wells Cathedral School Chamber Orchestra and World Music Groups are at the Barbican Centre, London EC2 (0171-680 8891), on Monday, 7.30pm

LONDON

CINDERELLA: English National Ballet's miniature summer season at the Southbank Centre with four performances of Michael Carter's remarkable new staging of the much-loved fairy tale. With sumptuous sets and costumes by David Walker, the evening promises magic for young and old alike. Festival Hall, South Bank SE1 (0171-923 4242). Tonight, Thurs and Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm

LUFTHANSA FESTIVAL: The renowned flautist Jed Wertz returns to St James's with Musica and Fibonatti, the ensemble he co-founded. Making its UK debut at the festival, the group offers a feast of Baroque sound with music by Vivaldi, Locatelli, Quantz and Bach. St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-437 5053). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE ODD COUPLE: After touring Neil Simon's hit comedy throughout America and Australia, Jack Klugman and Tony Randall return to London, playing the two divorced husbands, slop and tussle. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Preview from tonight, 8pm. Opens June 26, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat & 10pm. Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

THE PHOENICIAN WOMEN: Katie Mitchell's engrossing production of Euripides from last year's Stratford season, highly praised players by

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves

Lorraine Ashbourne and Lucy Whitrow at the Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8811). Preview from tonight, 7.15pm. Opens June 26, 7pm

ELSEWHERE: ALDEBURGH: The Sistine arrives at Snape with a selection of music demonstrating their wide-ranging repertoire of Renaissance, Baroque and 20th century choral works. Under the direction of Harry Christophers, the group offers extracts from An Elizabethan Song Book followed by works by Britten, Stravinsky, Howells and Walton. Snape Maltings, Suffolk (01728 453543). Tonight, 8pm

BIRMINGHAM: Antis director Christopher Bruce brings his reimagined Rambert Dance Company to town for two performances of some of contemporary dance's all-time greatest hits. The programme includes the sharp, sick and sexy Rooster - danced to eerie Rolling Stones classics, and Sinsong, which fuses popular dance

corral wizard Loads of electronic tracks disguise the improbability of Shylock's Shylock. Barbican, WCC (0171-379 5999). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Wed and Sat, 3pm

TWELVE ANGRY MEN: Kevin Whately, Timothy West, Peter Vaughan and five incredible others in Ronald Rose's fully orchestrated jury-room drama. Comedy. Pavilion Street SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm

JUDIE THE OBSCURE: Make Affairs direct his adaptation of Hardy's beloved novel for Michael and Madeline's company of four. In repertory with Private Lives and Flesh and Blood. Lyric, King St, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-741 2311). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm

THE PRINCE'S PLAY: Interesting recreation of Victor Hugo's Registre. Hamlet's transition from London to Norway's transition. Goes over the top now and then, but in a good cause. National (Odeon) South Bank, SE1 (0171-939 2258). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm mat Sat, 2pm

THE TEMPEST: Denis Quilley plays Prospero in Patrick Garland's hypnotic production of Shakespeare's Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431). Today, 2.20pm and 8pm. In rep with The Comedy of Errors

TOMMY: Huge, impressive staging of the traumatised child's apocalyptic

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COMPANY: Adrian Lester, Sheila Goh, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Southey's balladromes. Music on marriage, peace and war. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Wed and Sat, 4pm

ELVIS: Spurred revival of the 30-year-old biopic show. P. J. Proby plays the Vegas Elvis and Tim Winal plays the Elvis in his prime. Palace of Varieties, Coventry Street W1 (0171-483 5972). Mon-Thu, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 5.30 and 8.30pm

GHOSTS: Ibsen's play about social hypocrisy, cover-ups and last-wrangling comes to the fore in a new production by Michael Poulton's new version. King's Head, 115 Upper St, N1 (0171-236 2211). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat and Sun, 3.30pm

HABES CORPUS: Ten hit acts in a revival of Alan Bennett's marvellous modern farce. With Brenda Blyth, Colin Hanks, Jessica Swain, John Eccleston and Nicholas Woodson. Sam Mendes directs. Dominion, Whitechapel, E1 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Mat Wed and Sat, 4pm. Until July 27

HOW TO MAKE AN AMERICAN QUIZ: Fussy, well-trod drama about women's lives. Victoria Royal hosts a splendid cast. Director, Jody Dorn. Barbican (0171-638 8811). Empire (0171-330 3333). Today (0171-330 3333). Tomorrow (0171-330 3333). Wed (0171-330 3333). Thu (0171-330 3333). Fri (0171-330 3333). Sat (0171-330 3333). Sun (0171-330 3333)

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For further details and application form, please contact the Personnel Department, National Lottery Charities Board, St Vincent House, 30 Orange Street, London WC2E 7RH. Tel: 0171 747 5229/5200 (24 hour answering phone) or 0171 747 5237 during office hours. Please quote reference 066/T. Closing date: 5th July 1996.

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Please apply with full CV and current salary details to: Jenny Welsh, Personnel Officer Read Books, Michael House 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 6RB

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Fax/Post CV to:
Meridian Consulting Ltd,
7 Ludgate Broadway, London, EC4V 6DX
GDX
fax 0171 489 1261.

HOBSTONES

URGENT!
Temp to £10 per hour

Summer holidays have started and we are inundated with temp bookings. We require professional and flexible secretaries available for both long and short term assignments, starting now!

If you have 50 wpm typing and good knowledge of WP systems please telephone.

CITY - Lisa, Victoria, Kim or Joyce
0171 377 9919
WEST END - Gillian, Liz or Holly
0171 437 6032

TEMPORARY OPPORTUNITY
£9.50ph

Do you have at least 50 wpm with W4W, Excel and Schedule Plus?

We are handling an exciting temporary position working for the Director of a Prestigious International Bank. He is a charming though demanding boss and needs someone with initiative and a flexible attitude, as you will be working in an open plan office with 70 other people! You should enjoy an extremely busy office hectic environment and thrive under pressure. You will be juggling a complex diary, organising travel arrangements and typing a range of documents and presentations.

If you are interested in this position or in any other challenging temporary assignments we are handling at the moment, please call

Angela Mortimer
0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS CHIEF
£23,000

A senior News Editor is looking for an intelligent and accomplished PA to ensure the smooth running of his hectic office. Organisational skills are paramount in this job to coordinate a large number of social events and arrangements often at short notice.

You will also be expected to liaise between international news bureaux and foreign correspondents and assist with "breaking stories".

This role is excellent for a PA who thrives on being proactive and acting as a calming influence in a pressurised atmosphere.

Skills 60wpm and shorthand preferable. Please call

Angela Mortimer
0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

STEP INTO PERSONNEL
Temp to Perm - £22,000

This is an opportunity to use your proven organisational expertise as an introduction to Personnel within an international trading firm based in Victoria. Assisting the Personnel Manager, your involvement will include secretarial support plus payroll and pension scheme administration. Your key qualities of flexibility and practicality have proven invaluable to a recent administrative/secretarial role and can now be rewarded with excellent opportunities for teamwork and long term progression. If you can demonstrate these qualities alongside excellent IT skills, please call us now.

Angela Mortimer
0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

TEMP NOW. PERM ASAP

Don't wait for the perfect job, try the perfect alternative. Temp-to-perm with Tate. London's only exclusively temp agency. A great temp job only exclusively perm agency. W4W/Word or only Pro 50wpm SH/essential. Join the Tate team ASAP! and OTP skills useful. For the Tate team ASAP! Call Rachel Beard at Tate Appointments on 0171 408 0424

Tate

LAURA ASHLEY

Laura Ashley, the highly renowned design and retailing company, have recently moved their headquarters to Fulham and as a result are now looking for the following staff:

Secretaries/PAs

We need experienced and enthusiastic secretaries to work in either our Property, Finance, Buying or Merchandising teams. You will need to have well developed secretarial skills and administration - including fast, accurate word processing, ideally Amipro, and an understanding of spreadsheets. You will need to be enthusiastic, with bags of energy to keep up with the demanding pace. Experience gained in relevant areas would be desirable.

Receptionist - Chelsea Harbour

We are looking for a well presented and professional Front of House Receptionist to look after visitors and approximately 65 staff based at our satellite office in Chelsea Harbour. As the switchboard will be based in our nearby Headquarters, your role will be in help with the day to day administration to ensure the office runs smoothly, to greet visitors and answer calls passed across from the main office.

Ideal candidates will have at least 3 years experience gained working on a busy Reception area and will be versatile enough to deal with any problems that arise. Excellent communication and an ability to work unsupervised will be required.

All positions offer a competitive salary and benefits package.

If you are interested in these roles and feel you match our requirements, please apply in writing to Elena Marti. Human Resources Dept, Laura Ashley Ltd, 27 Bagleys Lane, Fulham, London SW6 2AR. Closing date 28th June 1996.

PA/OFFICE ADMIN
£22,000

This newly established West End Investment Management Consultancy require a flexible and professional PA to run and organise this small office. With an emphasis on team work, you will be involved in anything from project work to co-ordinating travel to taking minutes at Board meetings. You must take pride in your work, be hard working and enjoy using your initiative. W4W/Excel/Powerpoint.

DESIGNER LIGHTING COMPANY
£20,000 + excellent benefits

Based in the heart of the West End, this small company is looking for a PA to work for its ED, and Company Sec. You must have proven organisational skills and enjoy working with numbers. Your role will involve diary management, travel arrangements and the coordination of report production. The ability to work on own initiative and as part of a team are also essential. Your contributions will be appreciated and respected 100% as a much valued member of the team. An aptitude for graph presentations (Excel, W4W) and experience working at ED level preferable.

For both positions please call the number below.

Angela Mortimer
0171 287 7788

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

DTP Operators
Frankfurt - Germany

Excellent opportunity to work for an international Merchant Bank for a MINIMUM 1 YEAR contract in Germany. You must be fluent German/English and possess an excellent working knowledge of MS Office Powerpoint/Fredance. You will have a BSc for producing high quality presentations and graphic work. Interviews to be held at the Companies London office.

Call Karen Thomas.

Corporate Finance Secretary
£17,000 + full banking benefits

Well established bank has 2 positions available involving shorthand to suit enthusiastic candidates with previous finance experience plus the ability to juggle secretarial duties with Powerpoint presentations.

Call Andria Saxelby.

We have many more exciting and challenging permanent and temporary assignments, especially if you have the following software: Word for Windows, Wordperfect for Windows, Amipro, QuarkXpress, Powerpoint, Fredance, Persusion, Excel. Call Madeleine Nolan, Amanda White or Claire Vidler.

Devonshire appointments

7 Park Lane, London EC4A 3DF
Tel: 0171 622 2338 Fax: 0171 622 7000
Web Site: www.devonshireappointments.co.uk

Executive Shorthand PA
£25,000 + full banking benefits

A truly involved role including international travel arrangements and successful diary time management. Suit proactive motivated person with an eye for detail. Word for Windows, Powerpoint/Fredance and Excel. Banking background essential.

Call Andria Saxelby.

Trilingual Secretary
£Salary negotiable

Working in an exciting Trading floor environment you will be required to use MS office applications: It will suit an all round team player who can handle the fast pace of this growing European Assez. Securities section. You must be dynamic and able to work in a highly pressurised environment.

Call Andria Saxelby.

THE COMPANY LINGPIN
£19,000

This newly formed law provides for a PA/Administrator with good skills to work for one of the Division. Ideally public school educated it would suit someone with legal and company secretarial experience. You will be required to handle an enormous amount of diary cases. 60 wpm/SH. Windows/Powerpoint.

SYMONS STRAIN & CO
105 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3JF
Tel: 0171 477 1182 Fax: 0171 477 9525

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
HAMMERSMITH £20K+

Large, multinational co, prestigious office. Assist the President and his Executive PA at the centre of important business deals and running of the entire company. Variety Inc. meetings, functions, corporate entertainment, dinners, travel. YOU: Strong organiser, TYP 80/SH 90 wpm. Windows/Powerpoint.

Call Janette Wallace 0171 256 6668

LOVE + TATE

Design Consultants & Corporate Printers
PA TO MD
(Four months maternity cover from August '96)

Flexible, self motivated individual. Excellent customer service skills, good telephone manner, high degree of computer literacy and 60wpm typing. \$18k pa pro rata.

CV and covering letter to:
Mrs H Butler, Reporting Matters Limited,
47-51 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0BS

Corporate Travel Assistant

Excellent lower corporate requires Assistant for all aspects of corporate & executive travel.

Excellent organisational / administrative skills and computer literacy essential. £14,500 p.a.

Written applications with CV. to: Will Harrington,
Powder Byne International Ltd,
4 Alice Court, 116 Putney Bridge Rd, London SW15 2NQ.

DRINK, ADVERTISING,
CORPORATE HOSPITALITY!

Yvonne All in one BHM Top and Supply Healthy Media Director needs support and get your foot in the top class. Position in top company. Degree + Windows exp. only 20% hrs. Must have a good command of English. Please send resume on 0171 574 8231

BY SIMONS STRAIN & CO
27 Park Lane, London W1K 1PQ
Tel: 0171 477 1182 Fax: 0171 477 9525

Partial view of other advertisements on the right edge of the page, including "Crone Co" and "Trading Firm".

CREME DE LA CREME

A Real Gem
£18,000 West End
Our client, a top West End retailer, requires a lynchpin in their head office...

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

American Dream
West End
£18,000 + exc. bens
Do you long for involvement and thrive in a dynamic environment?

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants
Just writing to say a big thank you for all the work you have given me over the last two months...

CAREERS WORTH INVESTIGATING.
£13,500 to £25,000+
KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES E
0171-468 0400

TRADING FLOOR PLUS
TO £24,000 + MS + BENS
A very involved secretarial and administrative position working on the Trading Floor...

LEGAL IN BANKING
£23,000 PACKAGE
Co-ordinate an extensive diary, liaise with senior level management...

Corporate Finance
££30,000 + West End
Swiftly driving financial institution has several vacancies for outstanding secretaries to support dynamic and demanding teams...

Lynchpin to £21,000 Mayfair
Your contribution will be vital within this new division of an international financial organisation...

secretaries

secretaries

Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants

Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants

SIMPLY THE BEST!
£35,000 Business Development Co-ordinator
Based in Central London and working in close partnership with a personal customer base...

PA/Secretary to 3 Partners
£18,000 plus bonus and excellent benefits
Successful consultancy located in attractive Mayfair offices needs a PA to help a friendly and dynamic team...

MARKETPLACE APPOINTMENTS
PA to MD - Harefield £18,000
MARKETING GROUP SECRETARY - Harefield £17,000
PA SECRETARY - Finchley £16,000
PA to MD - Watford 6 Month Contract
Numerous Permanent and Temporary Vacancies Available in North London and Hertfordshire
01923 243000

SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN
A top-calibre Secretary is sought by the Chairman of this publicly-quoted finance and investment company to work in our modern offices in the City...

OVERSEAS CLIENT CO-ORDINATOR
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Secretarial Management Consultant
looks Assistant to establish/revitalize overseas client accounts...

PA TO FINANCE DIRECTOR
£20-£25,000
International company require top Personal Assistant for Finance Director + 1 other, High level global liaison, coordinating heavy workload whilst carrying out comprehensive instructions...

Fed up with the City?
Based in Chelsea this town of 6 ex-students is in pursuit of a focused yet cheerful PA to become an integral part of the team...

RIGHT-HAND REQUIRED
Top Flight Banking Assistant/Secretary to two responsible leading partners of a top profile West End corporate finance advisory partnership with major international and international corporate clients...

PRIME COMMUNICATIONS
CAN YOU COPE UNDER PRESSURE AND STILL KEEP A SENSE OF HUMOUR?
London based PR Consultancy with international client base requires an experienced secretary to provide all-round support to busy corporate division...

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY TO
£16k RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS, WI
Due to expansion to new and prestigious offices, we are seeking a professional receptionist who can also take on secretarial and database duties...

PERSONNEL OFFICER £25K
Support opportunity to join dynamic personnel team at leading firm of chartered accountants...

PA TO DIRECTOR Victoria £20-£22,000
Rapidly expanding company require experienced PA with fluent French & German for international liaison at a senior level...

GO TO PRESS £216,000
Full-time job has scope for confident career to work side by side with client & advertiser as an independent business consultant...

PA TO MANAGING DIRECTOR
£22,500 p.a.
to join small, high-profile company in exciting, busy role. You will have excellent senior secretarial experience...

MARKETING PA Victoria £18-20,000
The Marketing Director of a high profile company requires a polished PA with experience of working in a fast moving marketing environment...

PA to Co Secretary Office Manager
(70% Sex/30% Off Mgmt)
required for Head Office of PLC (based in Victoria). The successful applicant will have previous experience within Company Secretarial or operations of the accountancy & attention to detail required in such a role...

Multilingual Creme

LANGUAGE RECRUITMENT
RENCE MARKETING - Bilingual French (Spanish prof)
PA/Sec for prestigious Int Co. Polished, professional PA with solid senior-level exp. Diary, arrange travel, translations, read/req/sec files etc.

Sheila Burgess INTERNATIONAL
Specialists in Bilingual Secretarial Recruitment in PARIS & GERMANY
PARIS: Top PA, English mother-tongue with excellent French for MD of major company, 50% in French. As you organized & autonomous with confident skills/Provision Director level exp...

Deutsche Dynamo £22-23,000
Fantastic offices! Great location! Young, dynamic atmosphere! An international manufacturing company in the heart of the West End is looking for a PA for their Managing Director...

Euro Temps! To £10.00/h
What's your goal this summer? We'll match your top linguistic & secretarial skills with our champion client squad making sure you pass from one assignment to the next without a tackle...

LANGUAGE MATTERS
CREATE A FRENCH CAREER
Head of CRM/PA needs top PA to assist in various areas. Must be energetic as well as personable. Good exp for good with 2 yrs exp. 25% annual as well as gross pay. Send CV to: ITALIAN BANK £16-20,000 + EXCEL BENS

LANGUAGE RECRUITMENT SERVICES LTD
TEL: 0171 28 0424 FAX: 0171 437 1341
AMERICAN - Work for top partner... Spanish PA to work for a private client... FRENCH/SPANISH - Full time job has scope for confident career...

DSA Bilingual LTD
GERMAN £18,000 + Bank Bens
If you have solid secretarial skills and want to work in a team, busy and exciting working conditions...

Crone Corkill Multilingual Recruitment
BILINGUAL GERMAN SECRETARY - FLEXTIME Up to £17,000
A German interior designer is looking for a bilingual secretary/administrator, who will be responsible for English and German correspondence and office administration...

Crone Corkill Multilingual Recruitment
JAPANESE £201,000. A leading City law firm is now looking to recruit a Bilingual secretary, English Mother Tongue... RUSSIAN - Shipping company is looking for a dynamic, strong graduate with Russian and English...

AVOID THE HUMDRUM £12K-13K
Dying to use your brains & business instincts in a multi-cultural environment? Avoid the 3 Consultants you will screen CVs, carry out searches, meet candidates & give secretarial support...

Tel: 0171 680 6806 Office-based Support Roles

Administrative Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586 Office-based Support Roles

PROPERTY ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY

Chartwell Land plc a leading specialist retail property investment and development company seeks an enthusiastic and highly capable property administrator/secretary to work within the investment business.

The position involves servicing the computerised property database, assisting on service charge/insurance matters and producing/updating spreadsheet based reports. Additionally, the successful applicant will be expected to provide secretarial support to the Associate Director responsible for portfolio management.

Applicants must have high level of numeracy and computer literacy with WP speed of 60wpm or more and excellent organisational skills. Property experience is desirable but not imperative. Attention to detail is essential. An attractive package of benefits is offered.

CHARTWELL LAND Please send CV's to: Gary Miles, Personnel and Training Manager, Chartwell Land plc, 66 Chiltern Street, London, W1M 2AL.

ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR & ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

Due to continuing expansion and a desire to further enhance the quality of administration at the School, the following position is now available for a dedicated professional wishing to join our team.

PA/Administrator for the CATHOLIC AGENCY FOR SOCIAL CONCERN (CASC)

This new agency of the Roman Catholic Church is looking for an enthusiastic person with extensive office experience to join in September the small team establishing this office in London.

ADMINISTRATION/OFFICE MANAGER

for a newly established Investment Management Co. The position requires an experienced organised and motivated individual with the ability to work under pressure and as part of a small team.

Successful applicant will have excellent communication and administration skills (Word for Windows and Excel) with a flexible and enthusiastic approach to their work.

TEAM SECRETARY

International telecommunications co. based in West London seek capable Team Administrator to work in busy legal dept. Duties include diary management, travel and general co-ordination of team.

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY £15K + WCI

International headhunting firm requires young, enthusiastic, professional person with previous personnel experience.

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT CHISWICK £16,000 + Benefits

To join this superb company within the Personnel Department you must have experience of a computerised personnel package and at least 6 months' experience of a personnel environment.

PHILLIPS INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS Business Development - PA/Secretary/ Administrator

Business Development - PA/Secretary/ Administrator Computer literacy, good interpersonal and organisational skills required.

Tel: 0171 680 6806 Junior Vacancies up to £16,000

First Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586 Junior Vacancies up to £16,000

CITY SLICKER £12,750 plus outstanding benefits This is a superb opportunity to work alongside the PA to a senior partner of this dynamic and fast-moving management consultancy.

MEDIA SECRETARIES Advertising £12,000 A top-ten advertising agency whose clients are well-known household names are looking for an administration assistant.

Monday 24th June If you are a graduate or college leaver this is your chance to find out about the most exciting permanent and temporary opportunities throughout London.

Fantastic Opportunities for College Leavers £10-£15,000 + Benefits We have a variety of exciting permanent and temporary positions in the following areas.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT TO MARKETING DIRECTOR £12,500 + Benefits An excellent opportunity has arisen to work in a leading financial publishing and exhibition organising company.

GREYTHORNE COLLEGE LEAVER/2ND JOBBER JUNIOR/TEAM SECRETARIES £11,500 - £16,000 Are you looking for that first important step, or your next career move?

RECEPTIONIST c£16,000 AAE + Banking Benefits DBS are a leading International Banking Computer Software Company, with lively offices in Central London, WC2.

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY Outstanding opportunity for second jobber to join team in prestigious private practice. As the first point of contact for patients you will need to be extremely well presented with excellent customer service skills.

SECRETARIAL/ADMIN ASSISTANT A clearly defined, well-structured and versatile individual to fill this role. Reporting to one of the Directors you will provide general support, including copy typing of correspondence and organising travel for the company.

TRAINEE SECRETARY £12,000 Global business 'LIFE' in its forty seven Garden units a busy and personable person to join team and learn the ropes from scratch.

COLLEGE LEAVERS £11,500 Secretarial course plus good GCSEs for major City firm. Ongoing training and prospects 45wpm. Career Design 0171 489 8889.

ST JAMES'S COLLEGE LEARN NEW SKILLS AND REFRESH OLD ONES Short flexible courses in keyboarding and Teletext shorthand.

BANKING & LEGAL LA CREME EX-CAREER Open £15,000+ plus on package. European level. IT skills (Word & Excel) Powerpoint for presentations/short courses. Visa. Salary £11,000-12,000. Call 0171 489 8889.

RECEPTION SELECTION Large, prestigious City Investment Bank is currently looking to recruit a number of FIRST CLASS FRONT-LINE RECEPTIONISTS £17,000pkg

VAL WADE RECRUITMENT Large, prestigious City Investment Bank is currently looking to recruit a number of FIRST CLASS FRONT-LINE RECEPTIONISTS £17,000pkg

RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Salary c£15K An IT software house in the City requires a well-presented receptionist to deal promptly, politely and efficiently with visitors and telephone callers.

PROFESSIONAL RECEPTIONISTS For one-to-one or 2 days job share in high profile company. Good typing on obvious advantage. Excellent interpersonal skills and a confident approach.

PC/Mac Training Merton Training offers all your rooted computer training in our fully equipped training centre with the latest PC/Mac computer software. Students will receive professional tuition from our highly qualified and experienced staff.

INTERNATIONAL METAL COMPANY WEST END Require Secretary to Chairman & Financial Directors. Excellent shorthand 100/120wpm £18,000 p.a. Fax CV to: Mrs Gould 0171 598 1520

RECEPTION SELECTION A MATURE Receptionist to be based in the City of London. The successful candidate will be highly articulate and confident. They will be responsible for the reception of visitors and telephone callers.

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS Required to join our expanding central London Lettings team. Must be enthusiastic and organised. Please call: Mrs. Smith 0171 225 0433

RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Salary c£15K An IT software house in the City requires a well-presented receptionist to deal promptly, politely and efficiently with visitors and telephone callers.

PROFESSIONAL RECEPTIONISTS For one-to-one or 2 days job share in high profile company. Good typing on obvious advantage. Excellent interpersonal skills and a confident approach.

LUCIE CLAYTON Business Courses GCSEs, A Level Leavers and Graduates 1, 2 or 3 term options. Short-hand, Touchtyping, WP Spreadsheets, Databases, Advertising, Information Technology, Law, PR, Social and Business Behaviour. Also intensive 2 and 4 week courses. 4 Cornwall Gardens, London SW7 4AJ 0171 581 0024

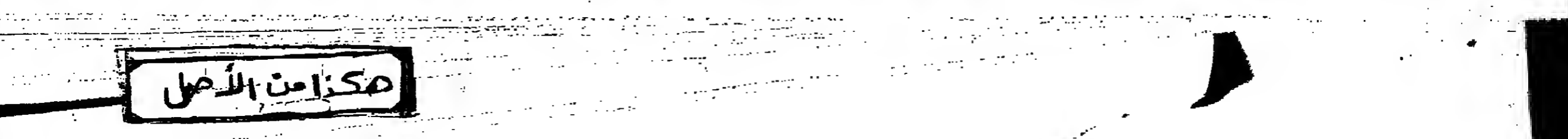
INTERNATIONAL METAL COMPANY WEST END Require Secretary to Chairman & Financial Directors. Excellent shorthand 100/120wpm £18,000 p.a. Fax CV to: Mrs Gould 0171 598 1520

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LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS Required to join our expanding central London Lettings team. Must be enthusiastic and organised. Please call: Mrs. Smith 0171 225 0433

MEDICAL SECRETARIES URGENTLY REQUIRED... FOR LONG & SHORT TERM TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS. EXPERIENCE ESSENTIAL. EXCELLENT RATES! TEL: STEPHANIE 0171 499 7747

PROFESSIONAL RECEPTIONISTS For one-to-one or 2 days job share in high profile company. Good typing on obvious advantage. Excellent interpersonal skills and a confident approach.



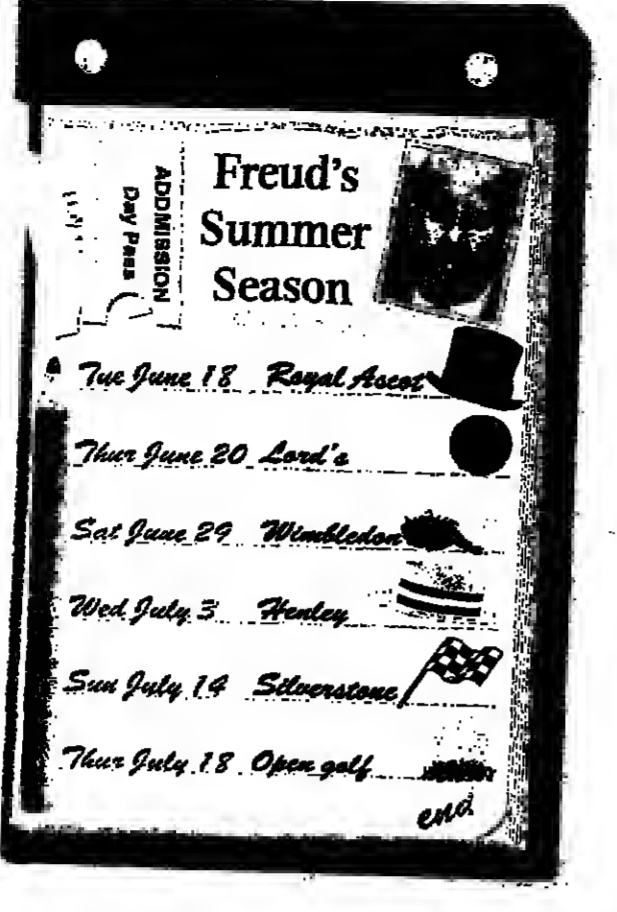
Fashion tips favourite among the Ascot clothes horses

They work to different criteria, those long-legged, mid-skirted, designer-hatted, kid-gloved women in swirls of silk, muslin and taffeta, from those pastel-coloured faces comes undemanding conversation, the purpose of which is to appear involved while projecting their good side to passing cameramen. Here is a preview of Oxfam's 1996 collection.

This is the start of the season: the first day of Royal Ascot. Tell them that you have positive information of the well-being of Wall Street in the St James's Palace Stakes and they look at you in bewilderment. The fact that there is racing is accepted but not critical to the day's entertainment.

Clothes matter; companions are important: as is to whom you talk and who sees you talking to them. Designers matter: Thomasz Starzewski is the most glittering of these, therefore matters most. Hats, if at all possible, should be by Philip Treacey or Graham Smith - this season's "in" milliners according to the social editor of *Harpers & Queen*, the "in" social editor.

There are two Chery Blossom shoe cleaners, one male the other female, so that a woman may have a shine without the fear of a member of the opposite sex glancing up her thigh: something not quite right about shoe cleaners at a



party such as this. Damn it, we shone our shoes before we left home and gave them of extra polish on the backs of our trousers waiting to enter the golden gates guarded by bowler-hatted attendants. Is it imagination or have their faces softened? They now look as if they did not really despise us.

A hairdresser, here to keep his eye on a couple of his clients, tells me that the women are in a quandary: Thursday, Ladies' Day, is

when you must be at your best, but on Thursday the competition is seriously fierce, so one or two of them have gone for it today. You can please some of the photographers some of the time. Women shimmy out of the enclosure (no cameras allowed inside) to provide photo opportunities on the way to the paddock and back ideally, companions should be unobtrusively morning-suited and be recognised... but not famous, else the companion might hog the picture.

The place radiates perfection: the lawns are as smooth and as green as a smoocher; the champagne cold, the sandwiches generously filled; and this year they expect a quarter of a million racegoers. I am proud to be four of them, for I lose our money and run up substantial dry-cleaning bills and be forced to have our tops hats re-brushed... and consider it all a small price to pay.

Her Majesty and the three horse-drawn coaches containing her family and friends reach the mile post soon after 2pm and you can hear the ooh-aahhh as racegoers see first Queen Mother.

"Would you call that magenta?" asks a woman with a noteпад. Not me.

A colleague offers me 25-1 against the second coach overtaking the one in the lead. I



Would you call that magenta? Photographers snap up a sample of Ascot colour

decline, possibly the only correct decision I made all afternoon. For the first race, the prophets of doom, they who said: "No one will come, not when England are playing Holland at Wembley before we can get home to our television sets," were forced to swallow their words. The racecourse had looked about only half full yet, when the horses appeared, the terraces were a dense forest of black and grey toppers rising like fungi from the ocean of millinery.

Favourites tend not to win at Royal Ascot. Last year Nicolote took the first race at 16-1 and here in the 2.30 was Charmwood Forest at odds-on. We looked for something to beat it, we who knew a thing or two. Charmwood Forest

won. As it was going to be one of those days, we backed the next favourite, backed there were joint favourites, backed them both. Neither finished in the first three. Noddy looked sad or dejected, the way they do when they lose at real race meetings.

Time for a glass of champagne: time for a plate of lobster. "What do you mean can we afford it?" asked a woman in a hat that made it impossible for her to see, never mind eat, a crustacean. "You've just lost Olivia's dress allowance for the year."

In the building that houses private boxes, 260 of them, each bulging with festive humanity, there is a Free Hall. The better dressed to the punter, the smaller serves is the bet. Between races is the time for moving around: winnery enclosure to paddock to seafood bar to call on friends in the car park who have hired a Swedish caterer to prepare open sandwiches served from the boot. The day is warm, but not unbearably so: men's stiff collars are becoming limp, women glow becomingly, an outsider wins the third race and another takes the fourth.

As Ratty nearby said: "Believe me... there is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as messing about in Ascot." Today I shall go back and put my money on Donna Viola in the Hunt Cup; you would be foolish to take my advice.

Win tickets to the Euro 96 final

Plus win a 29in Dolby Pro-Logic JVC television worth £900

The Times, in association with JVC, offers 25 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to see the final of Euro 96 at Wembley on June 30.

To enter the competition you will need to collect three tokens - three from the six printed in *The Times* this week or two tokens from *The Times* and the token which appeared in *The Sunday Times*.

JVC is the official hi-fi, TV and video systems supplier of Euro 96. The star-prize winner will also receive a 29in Dolby Pro-Logic JVC television worth £900.

In yesterday's edition it was mistakenly stated the winners would be staying at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington.

HOW TO ENTER

You will need three tokens to enter this JVC competition. You can also use the token which appeared in *The Sunday Times*. Answer the question on the entry form which appeared on Monday and post it with your three tokens to *The Times* JVC Euro 96 Competition, 11 Whitefriars Street, London, EC8R 7NG. The winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received by first post Tuesday June 25, 1996 and contacted by June 27.



The winner of the JVC Euro 96 competition will receive a 29in Dolby Pro-Logic JVC television worth £900.



WORCESTER

THUNDERER
8.45 Highly Reputable. 7.15 Night Time. 7.45 Comedy Road. 8.15 Dream Here. 8.45 Top Spin. 9.15 How's It Go'n.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

6.45 ST MARTINS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (€2,185; 2m) (23 runners)

1	225	PURITY 187 (8.0)	8/10	B Giddens	
2	125	PROSE 111 (8.5)	9/10	R Hogg	
3	110	DOCTOR JED 123 (8.0)	11/10	J Dineen	
4	105	HIGHLY REPUTABLE 18 (8.0)	11/10	B Giddens	
5	105	THE EXCHAMER 18 (8.5)	11/10	M J Keen	
6	105	HIGH DANCE 153 (8.0)	11/10	Gay Lyons	
7	105	CELESTINE 25 (8.0)	11/10	J Dineen	
8	105	ROCKY ROAD 21 (8.5)	11/10	B Giddens	
9	105	WAZZA 223 (8.0)	11/10	M J Keen	
10	105	MILUS 284 (8.0)	11/10	J Dineen	
11	105	CLASSIC NEWS 11 (8.0)	11/10	B Giddens	
12	105	SWISS MOUNTAIN 5 (8.0)	11/10	M J Keen	
13	105	SECRET 275 (8.0)	11/10	M J Keen	
14	105	KOTAN 11 (8.0)	11/10	M J Keen	
15	105	MISTHYPHERING 20 (8.0)	11/10	B Giddens	
16	105	ACADIA 718 (8.0)	11/10	M J Keen	
17	105	STRONG EDGE 19 (8.0)	11/10	B Giddens	
18	105	STAR HAPPY 19 (8.0)	11/10	M J Keen	
19	105	AVY DRUMMARD 23 (8.0)	11/10	M J Keen	
20	105	ORCHESTRAL DESIGNS 27 (8.0)	11/10	R Hogg	
21	105	ARCADE 23 (8.0)	11/10	M J Keen	
22	105	PAID FLAT 20 (8.0)	11/10	B Giddens	
23	105	LAZER LIGHT LADY 11 (8.0)	11/10	B Giddens	

7.15 WHITBOURNE ADVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (€2,125; 2m) (13)

1	250	PLEASANT SURPRISE 23 (M)	11/10	D Beggan	
2	150	LORAIN 25 (M)	11/10	B Giddens	
3	140	BETACORRETT 23 (M)	11/10	T Dey	
4	100	IDE OUT TIME 39 (M)	11/10	Sham Graham (7)	
5	100	REALLY HEAT 25 (M)	11/10	Sageie Hogg	
6	100	BOYDLE 25 (M)	11/10	R Daves	
7	100	WOODLAND 718 (M)	11/10	T Dicosche (6)	
8	100	MINDING 25 (M)	11/10	B Giddens	
9	100	PROF HARRY 11 (M)	11/10	D Moxie	
10	100	MINNESOTA PATS 18 (M)	11/10	Gay Lyons	
11	100	WHITTING 23 (M)	11/10	B Giddens	
12	100	PAT POLLY 17 (M)	11/10	M J Keen	
13	100	LASER LIGHT LADY 11 (M)	11/10	B Giddens	

7.45 OVERBURY CLUB ATHLETIC HANDICAP CHASE (€3,227; 2m 41 110y) (11)

1	2/2	CASTLE HONG 11 (8.0)	9/10	B Powell	
2	2/2	DRAUGHTS 32 (8.0)	11/10	A Thornton	
3	2/2	ORANGE PINK 20 (8.0)	11/10	B Giddens	
4	2/2	THE LORDLYMAN 40 (8.0)	11/10	G Upton	
5	2/2	JUDICIAL FEUD 28 (8.0)	11/10	R Denwood	
6	2/2	CLEVER MAN 23 (8.0)	11/10	B Giddens	
7	2/2	HENLEY REGATTA 11 (8.0)	11/10	S Barnham	
8	2/2	CONKEY ROAD 24 (8.0)	11/10	M Johnson	
9	2/2	WANDERER 23 (8.0)	11/10	B Giddens	
10	2/2	ANTARCTIC 12 (8.0)	11/10	L O'Hara	
11	2/2	SALOMON HAWMOOR 20 (8.0)	11/10	P Peckard	

8.15 HEREFORD & WORCESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NOVICES HURDLE (€2,548; 2m 40) (15)

1	31	CUSTOMER DAWN 28 (M)	9/10	S Mitchell	
2	31	CLASSIC MASTER 18 (M)	11/10	S Mitchell	
3	31	DAMAS 23 (M)	11/10	B Giddens	
4	31	DREAM HERE 18 (M)	11/10	B Giddens	
5	31	MILWAUKEE 25 (M)	11/10	C Leach	
6	31	MUTLEY 10 (M)	11/10	C Leach	
7	31	RODNEY 18 (M)	11/10	C Leach	
8	31	WAGON BLADE 27 (M)	11/10	B Giddens	
9	31	SHANA WIRELESS 44 (M)	11/10	S Wynne	
10	31	ALLENWOOD 21 (M)	11/10	T Dicosche (6)	
11	31	ALICES GIRL 18 (M)	11/10	B Giddens	
12	31	LOOPY THINK 30 (M)	11/10	P MacLennan	
13	31	ALLENWOOD 21 (M)	11/10	M J Keen	
14	31	SMOOTH THING 34 (M)	11/10	M J Keen	
15	31	Milonga, A-1 Dances, A-1 Glencannon, G-1 Dances, H-1 Signa, W-1 Swan Lake, W-1 Holy Hill, W-1 Chocla, W-1...			

9.15 HIGH GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE (€3,936; 2m 40) (14)

1	120	SHARON 23 (8.0)	11/10	B Giddens	
2	120	SEA NICHOL 19 (8.0)	11/10	R Johnson	
3	120	BATTY'S ISLAND 20 (8.0)	11/10	Gay Lyons	
4	120	HOLY JOE 108 (8.0)	11/10	D Beggan	
5	120	STRAIGHT LINE 21 (8.0)	11/10	B Giddens	
6	120	STICKY KICK 23 (8.0)	11/10	M J Keen	
7	120	WINE 10 (8.0)	11/10	A Thornton	
8	120	CALL THE GUNWREN 11 (8.0)	11/10	J R Keane	
9	120	WILKINS GARAGE 23 (8.0)	11/10	R Johnson	
10	120	BEAM ME UP SCOTTY 49 (8.0)	11/10	R Johnson	
11	120	FIRST CLASS 23 (8.0)	11/10	R Johnson	
12	120	STICKY KICK 23 (8.0)	11/10	M J Keen	
13	120	SWEET NOBLE 10 (8.0)	11/10	M Stratton	
14	120	RAY RAY 7 (8.0)	11/10	M Stratton	

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Smart, 3 winners from 6 runners, 37.5%; C Mann, 5; G Ross, 14 runners from 39 races, 20.2%; M Potts, 23 from 100; D Doherty, 18 from 56, 22.1%; N Henderson, 6 runners, 15.6%; C Nash, 3 from 21, 14.3%.

14-16 June 23 runners from 89 races, 20.2%; M Rocco, 4 from 19, 21.1%; C Leech, 18 from 111, 16.2%; J Ryan, 4 from 25, 16.0%; M O'Brien, 15 from 187, 15.5%; J Frost, 7 from 55, 12.7%; D Braggs, 13 from 111, 11.7%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Royal Ascot
Going: good to firm

2.30 (1m 50y) 1. CHARMWOOD FOREST 11 (M) 11/10; 2. GLENNIER 10 (M) 11/10; 3. MIDDIE CAT (W) 20 (M) 11/10; 4. BIRCH 21 (M) 11/10; 5. YOUNG EM (M) 40 (M) 11/10; 6. MR MASON (M) 50 (M) 11/10; 7. MURPHY'S 23 (M) 11/10; 8. BRIGHT STAR (M) 11 (M) 11/10; 9. BENTLEY 11 (M) 11/10; 10. CORNETT ROAD 24 (M) 11/10; 11. WANDERER 23 (M) 11/10; 12. ANTIPODES 23 (M) 11/10; 13. BENTLEY 11 (M) 11/10; 14. BENTLEY 11 (M) 11/10; 15. BENTLEY 11 (M) 11/10.

4.30 (1m 40y) 1. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 2. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 3. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 4. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 5. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 6. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 7. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 8. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 9. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 10. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 11. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 12. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 13. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 14. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1; 15. SOUTHERN POWER (D) 10/1.

8.15 RICHMOND

THUNDERER
2.15 Rusk. 2.50 Alpine Time. 3.25 Shadow Jury. 4.00 Kivine. 4.35 Outstayed Welcome. 5.10 One Pound. 5.40 Starlight.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.15 MASHAM MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; €3,059; 1m 20) (9 runners)

1	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
2	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
3	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
4	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
5	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
6	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
7	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
8	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
9	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	

2.50 RICHMOND CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O; €4,548; 8f) (7)

1	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
2	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
3	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
4	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
5	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
6	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
7	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	

3.25 ACC CO-OP HANDICAP (€9,642; 5f) (11)

1	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
2	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
3	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
4	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
5	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
6	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
7	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
8	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
9	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
10	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
11	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	

4.00 CITY OF RIFON HANDICAP (3-Y-O; €7,033; 1m) (6)

1	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
2	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
3	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
4	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
5	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
6	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	

4.35 BEAUMONTS INSURANCE LADIES DERBY HANDICAP (€3,031; 1m 41 60y) (16)

1	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
2	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
3	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
4	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
5	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
6	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
7	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
8	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
9	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
10	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
11	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
12	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
13	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
14	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
15	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
16	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	

5.10 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (2-Y-O; €3,755; 1m 41 60y) (12)

1	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
2	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
3	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
4	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
5	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
6	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
7	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A Gathwa	
8	10	MAISON 11 (8.0)	11/10	A G	

RACING: FRENCH FOILED IN THRILLING FINISH TO ST JAMES'S PALACE STAKES AT ROYAL ASCOT

Bravery wins day for Bijou D'Inde

By Richard Evans, Racing Journalist of the Year

ON THE 181st anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, the French arrived at Royal Ascot yesterday convinced they could gain some belated revenge on the English in what had been billed as the race of the season - only to receive their comeuppance from the tartan of Scotland.

Bijou D'Inde, carrying the checked silks of Stuart Morrison, a Glasgow lawyer and occasional bookmaker, and trained by his fellow countryman, Mark Johnston, looked a beaten horse as he surrendered the lead near the furlong pole in the St James's Palace Stakes to Ashkalani, the unbeaten French 2,000 Guineas winner and well-backed 13-8 favourite. However, the Scots



Bijou D'Inde (left) overhauls Ashkalani in a tremendous duel for the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot yesterday

RICHARD EVANS
Nap: MORE SILVER (3.05 Royal Ascot)
Next best: Dance So Suite (5.30 Royal Ascot)

are renowned for their toughness but, as favourite backers prepared to celebrate, Bijou D'Inde dug deep to force his nose back in front within the shadow of the winning post.

Johnston, sporting a waistcoat made from the green and yellow tartan which his family has worn for generations, said: "The French horses may be trained for speed but they are not trained to battle - and that's what our fellow did. He stuck on all the way."

In a race which attracted the winners of the English, Irish and French 2,000 Guineas for the first time since 1987, Bijou D'Inde's heroic victory was not just a fillip for Scotland; just as important, it showed the small owner can successfully slug it out with the mighty Maktoums and the Aga Khan.

Morrison has owned bits and pieces of various horses for 20 years but the start of the real beginning as an owner

came six years ago when he had his first horse with Johnston. "To be blunt, I chose him because he is a fellow Scot."

"I sold my interest in another business and for the first time I had some capital. My wife was not keen for we came to a deal. I bought a horse and she got a conservatory."

The horse in question, then aged two, was Quick Ransom, who developed into an admirably game and talented handicapper, winning the Ebor among other races, and

six figures worth of prize-money - before being sold for a handsome profit to an Australian owner who wanted a runner in the Melbourne Cup.

"I kept buying other horses with the prize-money and sent them to Mark to train and we have gone from strength to strength. It shows a small man, if he perseveres, can get a top-class horse."

Bijou D'Inde cost 20,000 guineas but given his breeding - by Cadeaux Genereux - his value as a stallion is likely to

be multiples of that sum and it will not be surprising if the Maktoums attempt to buy him in due course. The Morrison string, at present four in strength, looks set to expand and Christine, his wife, may be able to ask for more than a conservatory.

The outcome of the day's feature race may have form pundits scratching their heads as Bijou D'Inde comprehensively reversed the Irish and English 2,000 Guineas form. However, the reasons are not hard to find.

But for losing his action running down in the Dip at Newmarket, Bijou D'Inde might well have beaten Mark Of Esteem, while at the Curragh the ground was far too soft and he suffered from an interrupted preparation. Yesterday, with fast ground in his favour, he set the record straight.

Charmwood Forest also showed his tall home reputation was more than justified by converting potential into form of the highest order when he ran out the easiest winner

of the Queen Anne Stakes four years. The lightly-raced four-year-old cruised up alongside Mistle Cat, the long-time leader and, despite drifting to his right, soon pulled four lengths clear of his tolling rivals.

The Godolphin horse is entered in all the top mile races as he sets out to become the season's champion miler. However, as the French discovered yesterday, the Scots may have something to say about such lofty ambitions.

Fashion focus, page 3

Moller tradition maintained by First Island

JULIAN MUSCAT



at Royal Ascot

THE famous Moller livery was swept into the winner's enclosure at Royal Ascot for the third time in four years yesterday when First Island swamped Montjoy for finishing speed in the Prince Of Wales's Stakes. It made another unlikely instalment to a fantasy destined to run for years to come.

Amidst the deluge of petrodollars annually staked on the choicest bloodstock, this is a story of unbroken success with a limited budget. Little could Budge Moller have realised what he started in 1969, when, on his death, he made limited provision for the purchase of horses to race in his chocolate and brown silks.

Budge and his brother, Eric, had long been the mainstays of the Wragg family's Newmarket stable but their influence did not end with their lives. Although their White Lodge Stud was sold in its entirety, Geoffrey Wragg was to train the purchases in recognition of his achievements. Wragg's recruitment of John Ferguson, a Newmarket-based bloodstock agent, to manage the show in 1991 has proved a wise move.

Five years later, even on a vastly reduced scale, Mollers Racing remains the most influential patron at Abingdon Place. First Island's Royal Ascot triumph followed those gained by Nicolotte and Pentire last year and Petardria four years ago.

Yet First Island was effectively Mollers Racing's second string, for Pentire, the stable jewel, has been held in reserve for the summer championship races. Ferguson neatly encapsulated the fairy tale when he said: "There must be a certain amount of divine inspiration involved because I just don't know where we get the luck from."

smallest denominator within this remarkable equation. Trustees of Mollers Racing have never revealed the extent of the brothers' largesse but a healthy profit on the account should ensure that the Moller silks - carried by Tenosso to win the Derby in 1983, which marked Wragg's first year as a trainer - should grace British racecourses well into the next century.

Luck, to be sure, is the

ROYAL ASCOT

Racing schedule for Royal Ascot including times for 2.30 Ramoz, 3.05 More Silver, 3.45 Shake The Yoke, 4.20 Donna Viola, 4.55 Persian Punch, 5.30 Burning, 2.30 Jersey Stakes, and 3.45 Coronation Stakes.

Form focus section for Royal Ascot, providing analysis for the 2.30 Jersey Stakes and 3.45 Coronation Stakes, mentioning horses like Al-Royal and Shrike.

3.05 QUEEN MARY STAKES

Table of horse names, jockeys, and odds for the 3.05 Queen Mary Stakes race.

4.20 ROYAL HUNT CUP

Table of horse names, jockeys, and odds for the 4.20 Royal Hunt Cup race.

2.30 JERSEY STAKES

Table of horse names, jockeys, and odds for the 2.30 Jersey Stakes race.

3.45 CORONATION STAKES

Table of horse names, jockeys, and odds for the 3.45 Coronation Stakes race.

FORM FOCUS

Form focus section providing analysis for the 2.30 Jersey Stakes and 3.45 Coronation Stakes.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Table listing top performers at various racecourses like Doncaster and Newmarket.

TRAINERS

Table listing successful trainers and their win percentages at Royal Ascot.

JOCKEYS

Table listing top jockeys and their win percentages at Royal Ascot.

5.30 BESSBOROUGH STAKES

Table of horse names, jockeys, and odds for the 5.30 Bessborough Stakes race.

FORM FOCUS

Form focus section providing analysis for the 5.30 Bessborough Stakes.

4.55 QUEEN'S VASE

Table of horse names, jockeys, and odds for the 4.55 Queen's Vase race.

FORM FOCUS

Form focus section providing analysis for the 4.55 Queen's Vase.

ROYAL HUNT CUP

Table of horse names, jockeys, and odds for the Royal Hunt Cup race.

FORM FOCUS

Form focus section providing analysis for the Royal Hunt Cup.

FORM FOCUS

Form focus section providing analysis for the Royal Hunt Cup.

FORM FOCUS

Form focus section providing analysis for the Royal Hunt Cup.

FORM FOCUS

Form focus section providing analysis for the Royal Hunt Cup.

Shake The Yoke can avenge Longchamp defeat

2.30: My Branch boasts solid classic form. This shorter trip should suit Barry Hills's filly but preference is for Ramoz, who improves with every run. Ben Hanbury's runner came good over Epsom's last seven furlongs last time after failing to stay ten furlongs in his penultimate start. He holds Almutsharak and had Al-Royal back in third when winning at Thirsk last month.

Please Suzanne and King Of The East step up from six furlongs and must improve to take a hand. Bigger dangers are Leonie and Russian Revival. The latter flourished on an easy surface at the Curragh last time and is capable of better.

3.05: More Silver will take all the beating in this test of speed. She hails from Paul Cole's stable, which houses an abundance of two-year-old talent, and she could not have been more impressive on her Newbury debut. Dance Parade, from the same yard as the selection, has impressed in her two victories but is not considered on a par with her stablemate. Moonshine Girl looks a bigger threat. She should improve from her narrow defeat of Dancing Drop. Lycilly and Connemara appear best of the remainder.

3.45: Shake The Yoke can avenge her Poule d'Essai des Poulaches defeat by Ta Rib, who had the run of a rough race. Olivier Peslier now replaces the unfortunate Dominique Bouc aboard Shake The Yoke, who was sent off an odds-on favourite at Longchamp. She is fancied to retrieve the three-quarters of a length by which Ta Rib prevailed.

Ta Rib, who has home advantage this time, is lightly raced and therefore capable of further improvement. She represents a more formidable opponent than Dance Design. Dermot Weld's runner chased home Matiya in the Irish 1,000 Guineas (Priority Belle held) but finished behind the selection at Longchamp in October. Thrilling Day is unproven over this trip.

4.20: Apart from Chickwicka, there are no obvious front runners but the pace looks likely to come from horses drawn towards the stands' side. Donna Viola wins more than her fair share of races and appeared to show improved form when landing a fast-run listed race at Epsom 12 days ago. Chris Wall has his horses in fine fettle and this strongly-run race over a stiff mile should be ideal.

4.55: Henry Cecil has won this race four times in the past decade and looks to have an ideal candidate in Shergas to maintain his excellent record. Winner of his only start at Newmarket in April when beating Sasuru, an impressive winner at York on Saturday, he should stay and may have too much speed for his rivals.

Lallans, an out-and-out stayer, is arguably the form choice, judged on his second to Derby run-up. Dushyant, at Newmarket, but he could be found wanting in the finish. The biggest danger may be Cecil's other runner.

Valedictory, who was just over a length behind Shergas at Newmarket. 5.30: My two against the field are Beauchamp Jade and Dance So Suite. The form of Beauchamp Jade's Newmarket handicap success in May has worked out well with the two placed horses both winning subsequently, while Henry Candry's runner did particularly well to win a falsey-run race at Doncaster 25 days ago.

Advertisement for 'Switch? Delta? YOU BET' featuring William Hill. It includes a list of odds for the Royal Hunt Cup and contact information for William Hill.


Advertisement for 'RACELINE' featuring 'ROYAL ASCOT 101' and a list of odds for various races.

EURO 96

DAILY TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE

GROUP A

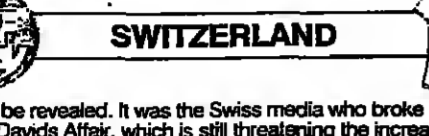
ENGLAND



The English press football team completed an unenviable sequence yesterday but it was one that may nevertheless have encouraged the national team before their match against the Dutch last night. Playing a few hundred yards from Wembley stadium, the Dutch crushed their English counterparts 7-2 yesterday morning, despite the presence in the English attack of Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive. Johan Cruyff was rumoured to be playing but did not turn up and the only Dutch celebrity present was the father of the midfielder, Clarence Seedorf, who gave the English journalists the consolation of a few titbits about the quarrels that are splitting the Dutch camp.

CAUTIONS: Adams, G Neville, Ince, Shearer

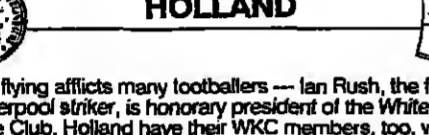
SWITZERLAND



All can be revealed. It was the Swiss media who broke the Edgar Davids Affair, which is still threatening the increasingly fragile harmony of the Holland camp. Davids, rather naively, thought that, by airing his grievances to the foreign press, it might not receive such widespread coverage. Wrong. The next morning, his views were in every Dutch organ from Amsterdam to Amstelveen. 'Edgar was foolish but it made a good yarn,' one Swiss journalist said. Fortunately, said scribe was not present when Davids beat a hasty and undignified exit from the Dutch HQ in Hertfordshire, with the assembled media having to take swift and evasive action.

CAUTIONS: Grassi (2), Voger, Ouentin, Vega, Jeanneret, Chapuisat, Turkyilmaz

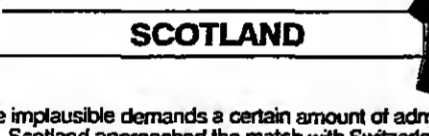
HOLLAND



Fear of flying afflicts many footballers — Ian Rush, the former Liverpool striker, is honorary president of the White-Knuckle Club. Holland have their WKC members, too, with Dennis Bergkamp, the Arsenal striker, and John Veldman, the Sparta Rotterdam defender, preferring to travel via Eurotunnel on their way to Euro 96. Bergkamp's worries arise from a long-ago prank that backfired at 37,000 feet but the anxieties of Veldman, who is soon to join Ajax to replace Michiel Reiziger, his Dutch team-mate, are born from tragedy. Seven years ago, his brother, Elried, was among a party of players killed in a plane crash at Zaandam airport in Surinam.

CAUTIONS: Witzelge, Taument, Seedorf

SCOTLAND



Even the implausible demands a certain amount of administration. Scotland approached the match with Switzerland yesterday, knowing that they were almost certainly out of the competition, but still booked a new hotel for one further night as a precaution against miracles. The players had requested a move to a more central location. The tranquillity of their present base, in a rural setting near Stratford-upon-Avon, must be making them twitchy. There was certainly a culture shock when a training session, on NFU Mutual's leisure facilities, was thrown open to 1,000 staff and children. Not one of the 22 footballers went 'missing'. It was never like this in Glasgow.

CAUTIONS: Boyd, Gallacher, Collins, Spencer, Hendry

GROUP B

SPAIN

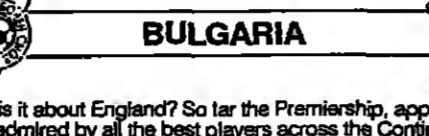


Andoni Zubizarreta, the Spain captain, could be called Captain Scarlet, given his reputation as the squad's Mr Angry. It is appropriate, too, because he is indestructible. He holds the appearance record for his country and, in 17 seasons, suffered his first injury only this year. It happened in January, when he pulled a thigh muscle, which ended a sequence of 534 Spanish league games. His anger has mounted all week about the 'gloomy' Spanish press, and he has finally won his one-man crusade to prevent them from staying in the same hotel as the team in future.

CAUTIONS: Camarero, Sergi, Amor, Abelardo, Luis Enrique, Amevaca, Otero, Klase, Nasa's

DISMISSAL: Pizzi

BULGARIA




What is it about England? So far the Premiership, apparently admired by all the best players across the Continent, has failed to attract any of the stars of Euro 96. The latest to turn his back on us is Jordan Letchkov, that bald-headed beacon of midfield industry. The Hamburg player has been wooed by several English clubs, and even said last week that he wanted to come here. When it came to the crunch, however, he chose France, saying: 'I will sign for Olympique de Marseille in the next few days unless there are any last-minute complications.' Marseille are also chasing Hagi, the Romanian.

CAUTIONS: Klechishev (2), Tzatanov (2), Stoichkov, Ivanov, Kremenshev

DISMISSAL: Hubchev

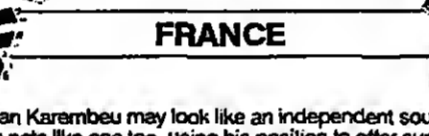
ROMANIA



Romania are on their way to Bucharest today but Gheorgi Hagi at least had the consolation of returning home clutching his 100th full international cap, collected against Spain at Eland Road yesterday. Reaching this deserved milestone could mark a watershed in the Barcelona's midfielder's magnificent if moody career. His contract at the Nou Camp expires this month and Hagi is determined to turn his back on Bobby Robson's overtures and prepare his passport for a stint in the United States, Japan or, just possibly, England. Hagi has reportedly said that he would not be averse to moving to Darlington. Jim Platt, manager of the third division club, would surely not reject him.

CAUTIONS: Iie (2), Mihel, Seiyves, Popescu, Hagi, Iie, Glica

FRANCE



Christian Karembeu may look like an independent soul, and he acts like one too, using his position to offer support for worthy causes such as AIDS charities and the campaign against nuclear testing, but there is one thing the deep-thinking, free spirit still needs... his rum. The midfielder player has to ring her before every big match. There is a problem, though. Before the game against Bulgaria, he rang home as usual, but on the New Caledonia island where she lives, it was 3am. Bleary-eyed, she still managed to conjure up some mother comfort — and no doubt confirmed that Christian's favourite teddy bear was all right.

CAUTIONS: de Meco, Blanc, Karembeu, Djorkaeff, Desailly

GROUP C

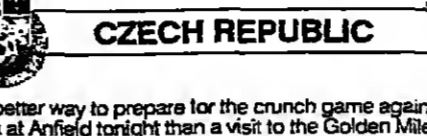
GERMANY



Germany held their biggest press conference yet yesterday, with a horde of Italian journalists swelling the numbers. One arrived in a Bentley with the number plate WEN2L (underneath and back). It was not that bad, but Germany were revealing nothing, although Jürgen Klinsmann was full of diplomacy as always. 'I would recommend anybody to spend a few years in Italy,' Klinsmann said. 'It will develop you as a player and your personality.' A German reporter who tried to get him to reveal his preferred striking partner was no more successful. 'I am glad I am not in Bertie Vogts's boots, because he has four strikers to choose from.'

CAUTIONS: Babbel (2), Reuter, Häselter, Möller, Kuntz, Zege

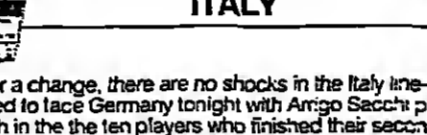
CZECH REPUBLIC



What better way to prepare for the crunch game against Russia at Anfield tonight than a visit to the Golden Mile at Blackpool? A ride or two on the big dipper ought to put the speed of Andrei Kanchelskis into perspective. The mood in the squad is fairly relaxed, with Lubos Kubik of Nuremberg, the most upbeat, having been called into the side to replace Miroslav Kadlec, the sweeper, who is suspended. Otherwise the Czechs will line up as they did for their unexpected 2-1 win over Italy. The Czechs intend to hold a press conference at midnight tonight — they have reached the quarter-finals. If they fail, they will face the world at the more sober hour of 10am tomorrow.

CAUTIONS: Kadlec, Drusk, Bejbi, Nedved

ITALY

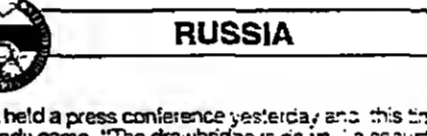


Just for a change, there are no shocks in the Italy line-up selected to face Germany tonight with Arrigo Sacchi packing his faith in the ten players who finished their second match, against the Czech Republic, with Di Matteo reinstated as the eleventh man. 'I'm not worried,' Sacchi said. 'I'm trying to smile now because I don't know if I'll be able to smile tomorrow.' The big debate in the Italy camp has been over why the team have played better in the second half in both of their games to date. If they can crack that one, they could progress. It is Sacchi's fifth match in charge — will it also be his last?

CAUTIONS: Albertin, Donadoni, Fuser

DISMISSAL: Apolloni

RUSSIA



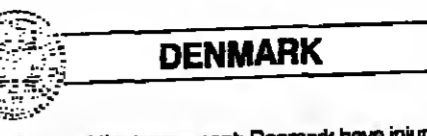
Russia held a press conference yesterday and, this time, everybody came. 'The drawbridge is down,' a security guard said with a smile. No smiles inside though. 'We come to what is likely to be our last press conference,' the team press officer said, and that set the tone. After the news blackout of the previous weeks, however, yesterday's meeting was sensational. Sergei Kirjakov was sent home yesterday morning. 'We have tried to improve the fighting spirit of the team, but Kirjakov was not only not a going back, he was the one who undermined team morale,' Oleg Romantsev, the coach, said.

CAUTIONS: Onopko (2), Kolyvanov, Kanchelskis

DISMISSAL: Kovtun

GROUP D


DENMARK



The surprise of the tournament: Denmark have injury worries before their game against Turkey today. Having been blessed with a fit squad thus far, perhaps this is just the setback that they need to wallop Turkey and clinch unlikely qualification for the quarter-finals. Michael Bech has a muscular problem and Jacob Laursen an Achilles tendon injury. One other peculiarity, the Danish players are promising neat, one-touch, attacking football. After their 3-0 defeat by Croatia, this could be Denmark's last waltz — and the last match in charge for Richard Møller Nielsen, their coach. Søren Andersen is expected to join Brian Laudrup in attack, with Michael Laudrup dropping deeper.

CAUTIONS: Risager, Helveg

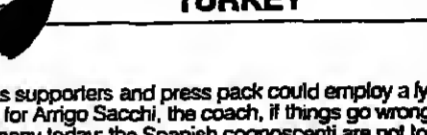
PORTUGAL



The Portuguese continue to harp on about the refereeing, both about the yellow cards and some of the decisions not given against other teams. Yesterday Antonio Oliveira complained about free kicks his side did get. 'Against Turkey we had good opportunities denied us by the referee calling play back to give us free kicks,' he said. The relationship between the captain and press is tense. Vítor Bala refuses to talk to the Portuguese press, saying that all they ask him about is his impending move to Barcelona. 'You are showing a lack of respect for the Portuguese people,' one journalist said. Bala remained impassive.

CAUTIONS: Paulinho Santos (2), Oceano, Sa Pinto, João Pinto, Paulo Sousa, Figo, Tavaris

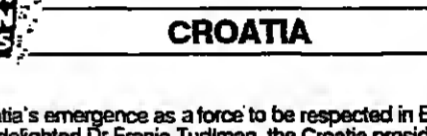
TURKEY



Italy's supporters and press pack could employ a lynch mob for Arrigo Sacchi, the coach, if they go wrong against Germany today. The Spanish cognoscenti are not too impressed with their team or results, either. Yet Turkey have received little but praise for their efforts, despite a campaign that could end with no goals and nul points. 'Being here is our achievement,' Eray Korkmaz, one of more than a thousand Turkish followers from Germany, said. 'We are proud of our team, we love the way they have played. There is no atmosphere like that of Turkish football.' Eray's idols bid farewell against Denmark at Hillsborough today.

CAUTIONS: Totunay (2), Abdullah, Vedat, Rahim

CROATIA



Croatia's emergence as a force to be respected in Euro 96 has delighted Dr Franjo Tuđman, the Croatia president. The good doctor is a close friend of Miroslav Bazzovic, the team coach, and they share a keen rivalry on the tennis courts and card tables. Tuđman's fax from Zagreb was among the first of many congratulatory messages that the squad received after their impressive 3-0 win over Denmark at Hillsborough on Sunday, and he has been invited to attend the closing stages of the tournament, should Croatia reach the semi-finals. 'He knows all of the players,' a team spokesman said. 'If we get to the last four and he comes over, it would be a great extra incentive for us.'

CAUTIONS: Asanovic, Boban, Soldo, Stanic, Prosinecki, Vucovic

REPORTS: Oliver Holt, Kevin McCarr, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Alyson Rudd, David Maddock and Louise Taylor

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C		GROUP D	
England 1 Switzerland 1	Spain 1 Bulgaria 1	Germany 2 Czech Republic 0	Denmark 1 Portugal 1	England 2 Russia 1	Italy 2 Croatia 1	Portugal 1 Turkey 0	Croatia 3 Denmark 0
Shearer (23) Turkyilmaz (83 pen)	Alfonso (73) Stoichkov (65 pen)	Ziege (25) Mäler (31)	B Laudrup (21) Sa Pinto (52)	(Wembley, attendance 26,567)	(Old Trafford, attendance 37,300)	(Hillsborough, attendance 34,593)	(Hillsborough, attendance 33,671)
Holland 0 Scotland 0	Romania 0 France 1	Casiraghi (5, 52) Tsymbalski (20)	Turkey 0 Croatia 1	(Villa Park, attendance 34,363)	Dugary (24)	Vlacovic (85)	Vlacovic (85)
(Villa Park, attendance 34,363)	(St James' Park, attendance 26,323)	(Anfield, attendance 35,120)	(City Ground, attendance 22,460)	Switzerland 0 Holland 2	Bulgaria 1 Romania 0	Portugal 1 Turkey 0	Croatia 3 Denmark 0
Cruyff (65) Bergkamp (78)	Stoichkov (3)	Nedved (4) Bejbi (35) Chiesa (18)	Suker (53 pen, 90) Boban (81)	(Villa Park, attendance 36,800)	(St James' Park, attendance 19,107)	(City Ground, attendance 22,670)	(Hillsborough, attendance 33,671)
England 2 Scotland 0	France 1 Spain 1	Russia 0 Germany 3	Suker (53 pen, 90) Boban (81)	Shearer (53) Gascoigne (79)	Djorkaeff (48) Camarero (85)	Croatia 3 Denmark 0	Suker (53 pen, 90) Boban (81)
(Wembley, attendance 76,864)	(Eland Road, attendance 35,626)	(Old Trafford, attendance 50,760)	(Hillsborough, attendance 33,671)	Scotland 1 Switzerland 0	Blanc (20) Penev (63og) Loko (90) Stoichkov (89)	Today	Today
McCosit (37)	France 3 Bulgaria 1	Italy v Germany	Croatia v Portugal	(Villa Park, attendance 39,000)	(St James' Park, attendance 26,976)	(Old Trafford, 7.30) BBC1	(City Ground, 4.30) ITV
England 4 Holland 1	Romania 1 Spain 2	Russia v Czech Republic	Turkey v Denmark	Shearer (23 pen, 57) Sheringham (51, 62)	Radiucioiu (29) Manjari (11) Amore (83)	(Anfield, 7.30)	(Hillsborough, 4.30)
Kluivert (76) (Wembley, attendance 76,798)	(Eland Road, attendance 32,719)						

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Holland	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Scotland	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Switzerland	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
France	3	2	1	0	5	7	7
Spain	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Bulgaria	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Romania	3	0	0	3	1	5	0
Germany	2	2	0	0	5	8	8
Italy	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Czech Rep	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Russia	2	0	2	1	5	0	0
Croatia	2	2	0	0	4	6	6
Portugal	2	1	1	0	2	4	4
Denmark	2	0	1	1	4	1	1
Turkey	2	0	2	0	2	0	0

Qualification of teams that finish level on points at the end of the group stage will be determined first by results between the respective teams, then by goal difference, then goals scored, then by a UEFA coefficient of qualifying performances for the 1994 World Cup and the European championship of 1992 and 1996, then by disciplinary records and, as a last resort, by drawing lots

QUARTER-FINALS

Sat June 22 France v Holland (Anfield, 6.30)

Sat June 22 Spain v England (Wembley, 3.0)

Sun June 23 Winners Group C v Runners-up Group D (Old Trafford, 3.0)

Sun June 23 Runners-up Group C v Winners Group D (Villa Park, 6.30)

SEM-FINALS

Wed June 26 Villa Park winners v Anfield winners (Old Trafford, 4.0)

Wed June 26 Wembley winners v Old Trafford winners (Wembley, 7.30)

FINAL

Sun June 30 Wembley (7.0) BBC1 and ITV

Year	Winner
1960	USSR
1964	Spain
1968	Italy
1972	West Germany
1976	Czechoslovakia
1980	West Germany
1984	France
1988	Holland
1992	Denmark

Year	Runners-Up
1960	Yugoslavia
1964	USSR
1968	USSR
1972	USSR
1976	West Germany
1980	Belgium
1984	Spain
1988	USSR
1992	Germany

Year	Latest Betting Odds
8-1	Croatia
10-1	Spain
14-1	Portugal
40-1	Czech Republic
250-1	Denmark
500-1	Russia



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FOOTBALL: BULGARIAN ACCUSED OF RACIST TAUNTS AS EAST EUROPEAN CHALLENGERS ARE ELIMINATED FROM GROUP B

Impressive France settle old score

Bulgaria 1
France 3
By DAVID MADDOCK

FRANCE progressed smoothly into the quarter-finals of the European championship with an ultimately comfortable victory over Bulgaria at St James' Park, Newcastle, yesterday.

The Bulgarians had always considered this the last tournament for an ageing side. Now they have the necessary evidence that rebuilding must be undertaken before World Cup qualifying begins.

The bitter rivalry between the sides was evident from the post-match comments. Desailly, France's marvellous

tion because Spain secured a second, winning goal, and because they cannot defend corners or free kicks. Laurent Blanc proved their nemesis. He scored one goal from a corner and created so much panic that Bulgaria conceded an own goal in a match which was not for the faint-hearted.

Remarkably, Bulgaria fielded ten of the 11 who started that match, which was enough to raise the blood pressure by a degree or two. Thankfully the two English referees kept a sensible grip.

The ugliest confrontations came, predictably, between Stoichkov and Desailly, who was hooked early on for hauling Stoichkov down on the edge of the box. It could have been a red card and it should have been for the Bulgarian who, in the opening minutes, demonstrated the full range of his colourful character.

France controlled the match after shaking off a nervous lethargy in the opening minutes. They have a midfield and forward line so fluid that it could drown any team in the tournament.

France, after being hard pressed in the opening 20 minutes, took a deep breath, thanked their lucky stars, and gratefully took the lead. It was a simple goal, too, Djorkaeff delivering a floating corner to the head of the unmarked Blanc, who converted with ease.

France were allowed dominance in midfield by the strange decision of Dimitar Penev, the Bulgaria coach, to



Kremenliev, of Bulgaria, becomes airborne in his pursuit of Lizarazu during the match at Newcastle yesterday

switch the influential Balakov to the left from his favoured central position. Myhalov, the goalkeeper who was breaking his country's appearance record with his 97th cap, denied Dugary with a quite outrageous save after the forward had chipped intelligently and later saved from Djorkaeff and Zidane, but he

could do nothing in the 62nd minute when his defence was again undone by a cross from Djorkaeff. This time it was missed by Blanc, but the ball skimmed into the net off the head of the unfortunate Penev. Stoichkov's response reopened prospects of the 2-2 draw that would have seen both teams through, but may-

be a third game in a week was just too much for ageing legs. As if to rub it in, France scored another goal on the final whistle. Loko rounding Mihailov after being put through by Karembeu.

FRANCE (4-2-3-1): B Lama (Paris Saint-Germain); L Blanc (Auxerre), M Desailly (AC Milan), B Lizarazu (Bordeaux) — G Karembeu (Strasbourg), O Deschamps (Lorient), V Guerin (Paris Saint-Germain) — Z Zidane

Spain squeeze through with a little help from referee

Romania 1
Spain 2
By PETER BALL

SPAIN are making a habit of leaving it late. On Saturday they equalised against France with five minutes to spare; yesterday there were seven minutes remaining when Amor's header earned the victory which takes them to a quarter-final at Wembley on Saturday as Group B runners-up.

By the end they just about deserved that success, after attacking with mounting conviction as the second half wore on; but they still needed a stroke of luck to claim the decisive goal.

Prodan, the aggressive Romania defender, was lying injured in the penalty area, playing Sergi outside to make a telling cross. Once he had done so, the Romania defence was split as the two substitutes combined, Alfonso rising to head the ball back and Amor bending to leave Prunea helpless.

Anghel Iordanescu, the Romania coach, has already had his say about refereeing in this tournament, and that will add further to his complaints. Another referee might easily have blown for play to stop before Sergi received the ball.

However, if Iordanescu believes that his team are going home because of goalkeeping and refereeing blunders, as he has said, he is mistaken. They are going home because yesterday, as in their other group matches, they did not score goals. They missed enough chances in the opening quarter to have left Spain facing an almost impossible task if they wanted to reach Wembley.

If Spain had their moments of fortune, though, they will be a test when they get to London. Spanish defences are always hard, and this one is no exception, but the tough little Sergi, Nadal and Hierro give them fluency as well as aggression in midfield.

In the end they were too durable for Romania, yet, at the start, the World Cup quarter-finalists looked as if they would at least salvage some pride by going home with a win. Instead, they have lost all three games, and that is not just down to luck.

With the aptly named Stinga and Raducioiu beginning dangerously, they could have taken an early lead, but the poor finishing which has bedevilled them soon surfaced. Hagi released lie, but, from a good position, he blazed over the bar.

Instead, rather unluckily, Romania found themselves behind after ten minutes. Kiko, whose sheer physical presence caused Romania constant problems for an hour,

found Amavisca. His shot hit his colleague, Pizzi, in the back and fell nicely into the path of Manjarin, who side-footed it beyond Prunea.

That gave Spain the start that they were looking for, but Romania held on until the half hour, they claimed an excellent equaliser. Great skill by Stinga put in Raducioiu to run in and shoot below Zubizarreta, the ball clipping the goalkeeper's elbow on its way into the net.

From then until half-time, Romania had the better of the exchanges, even though Hagi was a muted figure.

Yet Romania failed to recapture their earlier conviction when they returned for the second half and, increasingly, Spain kept up a constant barrage of the Romania goal.



Amor: late winner

as news that France were beating Bulgaria arrived to offer them hope of progress. For a time it looked as if missed chances were going to deny them.

Prunea made a fine save from Manjarin and another excellent one at close range from Amavisca, who accepted Alfonso's pass to turn past Popescu only to be denied by the goalkeeper.

Soon an even better chance arrived as Kiko put in Amor, who drew the goalkeeper and then slipped the ball across goal for Hierro, but Petrescu spread himself to block the drive with his body.

Finally, as time was running out, the goal came that sent Spain through. "Our participation has been a failure," Iordanescu said, "but we won't turn it into a tragedy. We will start fresh to build for the World Cup."

ROMANIA (4-2-3-1): F Prunea (Dinamo Bucharest) — A Dobos (Steaua Bucharest) — D Prodan (Steaua Bucharest), sub: I Lupescu, Bayer Leverkusen, 86min) — C Gheza (Steaua Bucharest) — O Petrescu (Chabres) — O Stinga (Salernitana), G Popescu (Gaziantep), G Hagi (Borussia Dortmund), F Soyer (Shanghai) — F Raducioiu (sub: sub: I Vladuta (Steaua Bucharest), 79), A Iliu (Steaua Bucharest), sub: O Murarescu, Coleraga, 65)

SPAIN (4-2-3-1): A Zubizarreta (Real Madrid) — J M Lopez (Atletico Madrid), R Alcaraz (Real Madrid), F Abalo (Real Madrid), sub: G Amor, Barcelona, 84), Sergi (Barcelona) — F Hierro (Real Madrid), M Nadal (Barcelona) — J Manjarin (Deportivo La Coruna), Amavisca (Real Madrid), sub: A Guerrero, Atletico Bilbao, 79) — J Pizzi (Tenorife, sub: Alfonso Pizzi, 57)

Referee: A Casar (Turkey)

Tormented Stoichkov beaten by the enemy within

Hristo Stoichkov, the Bulgaria forward, star and talisman, said before this match that Bulgaria would not win the European championship because they would not be allowed, fantasising a Europe-wide conspiracy of footballing officials against small nations. Bulgaria were not, indeed, allowed to progress any further: they crashed out because of the internal tensions of the team and their troubled and troublesome striker.

high skills and high tempers that always wobbled on the edge of brilliance, on the edge of disaster, without ever quite reaching either. It featured a great match within a match, with the two No.8s, who homed in on each other before the second minute was up. One, inevitably, was Stoichkov, who looks more like a bank robber than what he is, the owner of a bank. The other was Desailly, who was mostly marking him. In that second minute, he was beaten by a Stoichkov charge and tripped him as he headed in on goal. In the FA Carling Premiership, that might well have been a red card. As it was, the yellow was merely a signal that battle had been joined.

Simon Barnes watches the downfall of a team and star torn apart by internal strife

rare, quite mesmerising footballers. When any world-class player is truly up for a big game, the results tend to be compelling, but Stoichkov brings an added dimension to all this. He has a quality of menace, of danger, often associated with great actors. He may, at his very best, approach the Olivier class as a footballer, but as an actor he is distinctly Dr Martens League.

Football is another matter, though. He possesses a reptilian quality, and Desailly watched him the way you do a snake in your living room. The two exchanged off-the-ball chest bumps, whirling boots, theatrical tumbles, wounded looks to officials and, on one occasion, a couple of vigorous, unpunished slaps.

half, two periods of majestic football. It is no good having purple patches, however, if you do not score in them, and if you concede a humdrum goal from a corner as well, things begin to fall apart. France had the wit to slow things down after they had gone ahead, allowing Bulgaria to get cross with life, fate, the world and each other rather than with their opponents.

Conceding a truly foolish goal, direct from a corner, hardly added to the internal harmonies. So to Stoichkov once again. Does he wake up in the morning and ponder "What shall I do today? Shall I score a goal or shall I get sent off?" His deliciously flippant free kick would have made the

Italy pressure mounts on Sacchi

ARRIGO SACCHI is no stranger to pressure. It goes with the territory for the Italy coach, along with the compensation of a salary said to be £1 million a year. However, if Italy lose their match with Germany this evening and go home instead of progressing to the quarter-finals, even the salary will not soften the awareness of his own responsibility. His decision to make five changes against the Czech Republic carries a lot of blame for the defeat, which leaves Italy probably needing to beat Germany to survive.

deal with the next but one opponent — do that and you are on your way home." Klinsmann was even more pointed. Maybe it was not too wise to make so many changes, particularly leaving out a player who had scored two goals, he said with reference to Casiraghi. "If that had



Klinsmann: diplomatic

happened to me, I would have had a problem accepting it," he said, "and it has caused unrest in the team." There is, of course, no chance of Klinsmann being left on the bench today, but his captain apart, Vogts was being his usual, cautious self, refusing to reveal his hand. No, he would not say who Klinsmann's partner would be.

play, could see them going home, though it is highly unlikely. "It would be history's joke, if that happened," Klinsmann said, "but it could happen: so it is an incentive not to be too laid back." Vogts agreed. "Any player who needs motivating for a match against Italy should not be in the team," he said. Italy know that, for them, there is no second chance. "This is our final," Paolo Maldini, their captain, said before comparing the pressure of this game with that he experienced in the European Cup Champions' League with AC Milan after a home defeat by Salzburg.

Jittery Portugal have point to make

CROATIA are happy, exceptionally so. They have won both their matches and have already qualified for the quarter-finals of Euro 96. Portugal are unhappy, and suffering from a festering discontent bordering on paranoia. Luis Filipe Madeira Figo, the influential Barcelona midfielder player, twisted his left ankle in six-a-side training. Antonio Luis Ribeiro de Oliveira, the coach, thinks that everybody is against him.

lack of it, the Croats would be well ahead of the Portuguese. It would be no contest. Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatia coach, has even stated that he would prefer to play Germany, the tournament favourites, in the quarter-finals, rather than possibly Italy or the Czech Republic. Blazevic is 61, and the oldest coach in the tournament, but his grasp of reality has not waned. "I like Germany; they are such nice guys," he said. "Seriously, they play the football that would suit us the most. We are confident, for sure, but still have a deep respect for every opponent."

Portugal's preparations have been plagued by Oliveira's odd utterings. "We have videoed all the games so far and there is a wide difference in the criteria of the yellow cards awarded against Portugal and those given to others," he said yesterday.



Figo: ankle injury

His claims of victimisation appear unproven. Though they will be missing Paulinho Santos today through suspension, and six of his team-mates are on one booking each, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Germany have similarly poor disciplinary records.

Oliveira, who strangely prefers to be quoted generally, not directly, is likely to bring in Secretario, of FC Porto, to replace Santos. Jorge Cadete or Jose Domingos could start up front for the first time, but, if Figo does not shake off his ankle injury, Oliveira's depression will be complete. At Hillsborough, Turkey will, in all likelihood, be more committed than ever in an effort to appease their particularly enthusiastic supporters with at least one victory. With nothing to lose, it could turn out to be the most passionate game of the qualification round.

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WEDNESDAY JUNE 19 1996

TENNIS 50

LUCK OF DRAW DESERTS SAMPRAS AT WIMBLEDON

England to meet Spain at Wembley in quarter-final after emphatic victory

Shearer leads rout of Holland

England 4 Holland 1

WITH a display of pace, passion and power, England trounced Holland at Wembley last night, earning them the right to play Spain in the stadium in the quarter-finals.



Shearer, left, is kept at arm's length by Bogarde, the Holland defender, in the decisive Group A encounter at Wembley last night. Photograph: Ian Stewart

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England had lurked deep, following defensive instincts, with Gascoigne again and now also Sheringham, often hanging back, one knows not with what purpose, patrolling as deep as Ince, the allotted anchor in front of the back four.

releasing it as if out of a catapult into the inside-right channel for McManaman. The Liverpool forward, at last liberated on the side of the field that suits him, advanced at pace towards the penalty area.

Ince, revealing a trick of great virtuosity, used his instep to flick the ball on, and induced from Blind, the Holland captain, a late trip which brought both a penalty and a yellow card.

England last night obliged the Dutch to integrate, to sweat blood and tears for one another. Early on, Dutch fluidity had threatened England, thrown them back on their heels, and with Anderton, among others, augmenting the defence, England were reduced to hopeful breakaways.

Just before half-time England broke again. A McManaman throw-in was hooked on by Gascoigne and Sheringham, the goal at his mercy, sliced it across the face of goal, bouncing beyond the far post.

defence and Kluyvert, just on as a substitute, stole three yards off Pearce and struck a vital consolation goal.

When Gascoigne then laid the ball on a plate for Sheringham, the Tottenham man's mis-kick, an attempt at a shot, diverted the ball to a player who would not miss: Shearer, again with awesome force, drove the ball past Van Der Sar.

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with clues for 'TWO CROSSWORD' and 'No 812'. Includes 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' sections with numbered clues.

Much had been made of the supposed division in the Holland camp after the expulsion last week of Davids by the coach, Guus Hiddink. There was allegedly intolerance between Ronald De Boer and Blind and the young Surinamese players, Seedorf and Davids. The truth, as the Dutch honestly admit, is that it is more of a generation gap and to speak of racism in the country that produced Rijkaard and Gullit is disreputable nonsense.

Bergkamp, for the most part matched by the pace of Southgate, should have hit the target from Reiziger's right-wing corner, but missed. Moments later Bergkamp anticipated a poor back-header from Southgate, cruised by him, but, one against one, Seaman was superior.

Another five minutes and, when Anderton struck a shot that deflected off Blind, the goalkeeper could only push it to Sheringham, who this time poached the fourth goal from eight yards.

McCoist finally makes his mark as Scotland go down fighting

Scotland 1 Switzerland 0

ANGUISH found yet another way of insinuating itself into Scotland's experience last night. Until Holland's late goal against England they were set to advance to the quarter-finals on goal difference.

The Swiss are suspected of being weak in the full-back positions and in the opening exchanges Scotland flooded play down the wings. After five minutes Collins delivered a corner from the right that Durie flicked on to McCoist, directly in front of the posts.

Seven minutes later McKinlay's deep cross was knocked down by Burley to McCoist but his shot rebounded off the goalkeeper.



McCoist: missed chances

Illingworth handed fine and reprimand by TCCB

RAYMOND Illingworth was considering his position as chairman of the England cricket selectors last night, after he was fined £2,000 by the Test and County Cricket Board's (TCCB) discipline committee.

Despite a testimonial on Illingworth's behalf by Dennis Silk, the chairman of the TCCB, the seven-man committee felt that a fine was appropriate. Illingworth had benefited from the serialisation of the book, One Man Committee, which detailed his account of his two years in office.

Illingworth, who stood down as manager of the England team earlier this year and relinquishes the chairmanship in September, labelled it as "a sad day". He has already vowed not to have anything more to do with the game and it must be doubtful whether he will see out the season.

MORSE

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